CAMPAIGN 1992 - NBC NIGHTLY NEW REPORTS (JULY)

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From July 1992, NBC Nightly news reports of the 1992 Presidential campaign.

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letters published today in the los angeles times painted an unflattering portrait of ross perot's character while he was in the navy a spokesman for perrault said today that perot's navy record was exemplary and that the newspaper distorted the facts the letters written by perot's commanders at the time that he was trying to win an early discharge said that he was emotionally maladjusted and too immature for a navy career as nbc's lisa myers tells us tonight this is the kind of material that special political hit squads love to turn up they call it opposition research in the business it's known as oppo and for the most part it's fairly innocuous this team at the democratic national committee pours over newspapers tv programs and public records in search of anything ever said by or about george bush and ross perot one wants to look for consistency in their statements and records however the dnc had to admit today that it has taken opposition research a step further hiring private investigators to check into president bush's finances and his family's dealings with the government let them muck around in my garbage can but they're going to find anything in terms of this bush said he does not like anyone investigating his family but has no problem with opposition research opposition research absolutely i think everybody does opposition research republicans whose oppo room runs 16 hours a day have turned it into an art form in 1988 george bush destroyed michael dukakis with facts called from his own record in particular the now infamous furlough of murderer willie horton president bush also used opposition research this year against pat buchanan dredging up a nine-year-old column and he even said women are less equipped psychologically to succeed in the workplace bill clinton used opposition research at crucial points in the democratic primary in new york the target was jerry brown a clinton aide leaked information showing that part of brown's announcement speech came from an unpublished book proposal

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unpublished book proposal he had even had to lift his announcement speech so somebody could tell him what he believed in for this election this is an outrage now ross perot blames opposition research for damaging stories detailing his pension for investigating people the republican dirty tricks committee has been carefully putting this together for weeks so far there's no evidence that's true and a clinton aide says perot's being hypocritical and ross perot who's actually been a master at opposition research is now whining about it the next time a candidate whines about being hurt by opposition research keep in mind one thing the only way this information is damaging is if it's true lisa myers nbc news washington to domestic politics thursday's jump in the jobless rate was a measure of economic pain across the country and political pain in the white house and officials in the bush administration are arguing among themselves about just how to spell relief nbc's jim miklaszewski has more from the white house jim deborah president bush has staked a large part of his shot at re-election on the economy it's still growing but maybe not fast enough the president's frustration came to a head this week when he accused the media of distorting the news on the economy 92 percent negative what kind of reporting is that but the american people are smart they're gonna sort it out they're gonna separate fiction from fact they're gonna know reality when they see it three days later with the news on unemployment reality hit home like a ton of bricks and americans started to sort it out i just think it's going

to get a lot worse before it gets better he can't come through with domestic economic planning and boosts the economy between now and november 3rd it's over but bush's own advisors are at odds over just how bad off the economy is and then what to do about it sources report that chief of staff sam skinner leads a group telling bush to be upbeat that remaining positive shows leadership

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that remaining positive shows leadership but sources also say economic adviser michael boskin has warned bush that economic growth may be slower than originally thought and to sound too optimistic now may make him appear out of touch bush appears torn trying to sound both upbeat and realistic having said that the economy is growing having said that i am very much concerned about the unemployment figures while dan quayle tried to put the best face on political reality obviously a lousy economy is not helpful at all but it's not the only factor in a campaign especially for electing a president it's not the only factor but it's the big one bush advisers say if the economy's not going to improve any faster he's at least got to tell voters how he'd fix it after or if he's reelected for candidates seeking the presidency high profile appearances at fourth of july events are a must and both announced candidates were out today bill clinton on vacation in preparation for the democratic convention nine days from now went to a minor league baseball game in little rock for the story of president bush's day here is tom pettitt president bush began the 4th of july zipping to daytona florida for the pepsi 400 stock car race posing with the legendary nascar racing driver richard petty this is a day when we celebrate our independence and count our blessings and the way i see it yes they're problems but we are still the freest fairest in the greatest country on the face of the earth then as grand marshall he said with a straight face with that the president of the united states drove off in a pace car for a couple of laps at about 80 miles per hour with a secret service in hot pursuit next stop faith north carolina

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next stop faith north carolina controversial because it is reputed to be an all-white enclave in fact no blacks live here not every place in america is like these wonderful towns but its values can and should be because the values that the mayor mentioned the values the governor talked about the values that you hold dear are the values that hold our entire country together and we never should forget that political observers say a presidential visit to a small town is not likely to win many votes in the big cities which after all determine the outcome of presidential elections tom pettit nbc news in faith north carolina a week away now and the pieces are finally falling into place mario cuomo will speak after all he'll nominate bill clinton but the big question remains who will be clinton's running mate nbc's andrea mitchell in washington handicaps the field andrea margaret bill clinton has promised to pick a running mate who supports abortion rights but all of the men he's considering for vice president have mixed records on abortion after the supreme court upheld some of pennsylvania's restrictions on abortion clinton made one thing clear i said that i would run a pro-choice campaign with a pro-choice ticket it may not be that easy as he tries to get in shape for next week's convention clinton has run into some hurdles on the abortion issue indiana congressman lee hamilton almost chosen by michael dukakis four years ago was one of clinton's finalists but on meet the press this weekend hamilton said he opposes abortions for poor women paid for by the government and supports restrictions like a 24-hour waiting period for all abortions you don't think that that discriminates against poor women who have to travel and don't have no there are no perfect answers in the abortion case i think it is perfectly appropriate to put some restraint on a woman seeking an abortion that makes sense to me tennessee senator al gore would not comment today on his chances of being picked in the senate gore has supported the

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in the senate gore has supported the right to an abortion but in the house he voted against medicaid abortions for poor women nebraska senator bob kerry has also voted for abortion rights as a senator but when he ran for governor 10 years ago he wrote anti-abortion groups that abortion is morally repugnant this year he tried to explain in my first campaign for governor i was all over the map on the issue of abortion also

on the list pennsylvania senator harris wofford who has also supported restricting abortion rights in fact clinton himself supports arkansas's law requiring teenagers to notify their parents or get the approval of a judge before having an abortion not old 14 year olds are grown men and women that's why not all 13 year olds are grown men and women clinton advisers do not think he would eliminate a candidate who supports limiting abortions largely because most americans agree with some restrictions on abortions margaret thanks andrea nbc's lisa myers in washington has been tracking ross perot's campaign he's been learning that in politics like in physics what goes up must come down lisa margaret after a meteoric beginning ross perot has learned that he too is subject to the political law of gravity god bless you all of late perrault has kept such a low profile that he sometimes seems the stealth candidate he skipped all fourth of july events even one put on in dallas by his volunteers meanwhile the barrage of unflattering stories continues the latest that a coral reef in bermuda was blown up to accommodate perot's yacht parole claims these kind of things don't matter as far as i'm concerned those are little insignificant spitballs have no impact at all however in the last month negative opinions of him have soared and an ad campaign to define perot in positive terms has been delayed by repeated revisions also missing more details on where parole would lead the country remember perot's promise in may what are your thoughts on how we will

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your thoughts on how we will go about balancing the budget see me in 60 days 61 days have passed and the campaign still can't say when specifics will be forthcoming peru is making progress in getting on the ballot he's on in 21 states and has submitted signatures in ten war but his campaign organization is experiencing severe growing pains volunteers in denver were near mutiny after the professionals took charge these people just came in and said you're gone you're gone you're gone and we're here another problem perro's top advisors often disagree among themselves and sometimes get overruled by the candidate who continues to insist on booking his own tv appearances and writing his own speeches all this has taken a toll the pro revolution has has not been stopped but its momentum has certainly been slowed right now perot's aversion to being handled is conflicting with his promise of a world-class campaign he can't have an effective campaign if his campaign managers aren't sure where he's going or what he's going to say when he gets there of course but no one is breaking away in the three-man presidential race and even when it comes to their own candidates american voters have about as much enthusiasm as they might for a blind date arranged by the high school principal the latest nbc news wall street journal poll of the 1100 registered voters shows a statistical dead heat ross perot 33 percent george bush 31 bill clinton 28 and that support is very soft more than 60 percent of the voters have reservations about their own choices nbc's andrea mitchell tonight on how the candidates will try to break out of this political gridlock andrea tom this poll is not good news for any of the candidates they all have high negative ratings and ross perot's negatives doubled in the last two months bill clinton's problem is even worse instead of picking up steam while bush gets hammered by bad economic news

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gets hammered by bad economic news and perot gets hammered by bush clinton is still trailing less than a week before the democratic convention here's how voters have pegged the candidates so far clinton's strengths people think he cares about and fights for the average person has good ideas for the future is likable his weaknesses the same old problem on honesty and trustworthiness clinton trails bush and perot by wide margins bush's strengths voters see him as a strong leader stable dependable his weaknesses they don't think he has good ideas for the future or cares about average people what about perot people think he's effective a strong leader stable and dependable his weakness they don't think he is friendly or likable what are each candidate's best issues perot's are the economy taxes and trade clintons are the environment in health care bushes are foreign policy and upholding traditional american values heading into the convention clinton has achieved a remarkable degree of party unity after promising paul songus a chance to raise his economic concerns during the platform debate zangas endorsed clinton today the time has come for those of us who competed in the primaries to ensure that he has a convention that conveys a true sense of unity clinton has also made peace with jesse jackson who is expected to endorse clinton this week the one

holdout jerry brown on the today program he demanded that clinton endorse his anti-congress platform i'm not jumping on any bandwagons until i believe we're at a level of principle that opens up the possibility for real honest credible change it's that simple clinton advisers don't think they need to make a deal with brown more important to clinton choosing a running mate today he denied reports that his wife had vetoed nebraska senator bob carey it was an outrageous misrepresentation of anything anybody ever said hillary never said anything like that most speculation centered on tennessee senator al gore he was visited by clinton's top headhunter today and was huddling with family and advisers

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family and advisers unfortunately for clinton even a popular running mate doesn't usually help candidates who are trailing in the poll american presidential politics has always been balance the ticket with the vice presidential choice north and south urban and rural man and woman liberal and conservative well today bill clinton broke the rules he chose someone from the same gene pool a fellow moderate southerner of the same generation senator al gore of tennessee and as nbc's andrea mitchell tells us tonight it is part of a new strategy andrea tom bill clinton chose al gore to wage a campaign of generational change with a strong appeal to family values the ticket will challenge republicans in their strongholds the south the suburbs and the west it was a family portrait calculated to appeal to independents to younger voters to the suburbanites who've been voting republican or flirting with ross perot the running mate i have chosen is a leader of great strength integrity and stature a father who like me loves his children and shares my hunger to turn this economy around to change our country the time has come throughout american history each generation has passed on leadership to the next that time has come again they are two sons of the south moderates who have tried to move the democratic party back toward the center but gore has strengths that could help fill out clinton's resume he leads the senate on environmental issues a big plus out west he served in a non-combat role in vietnam he has foreign policy experience as a member of the armed services committee and he sided with the president on the gulf war the hope of peace remains in my heart in the hearts of us all but this debate is now about war gore is a safe choice ran for president

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gore is a safe choice ran for president in 1988 and was checked out thoroughly is squeaky clean also important he offers clinton a southern strategy in a region that has 60 percent of the electoral votes needed to win clinton right now is running at about a 20 level among the white males in the south al gore in 1988 did very well among conservative democrats and moderate independents the so-called swing voters in the south this is an effort to really make the south a battleground force president bush to campaign in the region some democrats said clinton was deliberately ignoring the northeast and the cities this is a southern conservative democratic leadership council ticket the question is will it have the breadth to address cities and the plight of workers i'm a part of america and i don't see all parts of america on that ticket but the choice was praised by most democrats including those clinton had passed over he's a superb senator i think it'll be a very strong ticket i will support it enthusiastically among core democratic groups gore is very well liked the american jewish community is going to be euphoric about the selection of senator gore and then there is the female side of the ticket tip regor is a strong promoter of traditional family values a crusader against pornographic lyrics and rock music the ticket is the first in decades that does not include a traditional liberal after years of losing presidential elections the democrats are trying to appeal to the swing voters who will decide this three-way race tom henry what about jesse jackson how troubling can he be as he continues to criticize the vice presidential choice well in recent years as we know jesse jackson has been very troubling uh to the democratic nominees but this year i don't think he will be i think he will be endorsing clinton and i think he's really been isolated there are many black leaders including members of the black caucus who think that he's gone too far that he may be on an ego trip and they would like to see him get more in line with the ticket thank you andrea mitchell washington tonight for his part gore is a democratic party thoroughbred

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thoroughbred born to a prominent political family raised in comfort but also the tradition of public office we have more on his life tonight from nbc's national correspondent bob kerr carthage has been home to four generations of gores it's not unusual for candidates to send out glossy family scenes in al gore's case friends say the pictures don't lie a devoted father who goes out of his way to spend as much time as possible with a close family wife tipper three daughters and the son who nearly died a few years ago after being hit by a car had albert gore iii not recovered so well chances are his father would not have been in little rock today a place he says resembles his hometown in tennessee it's a place where people know about it when you're born and care about it when you die that's the america bill clinton and i grew up in yet gore was born in washington where his father was in congress went to private school in the nation's capital graduated from harvard and when he ran for president in 88 gore was not evasive about what many in his generation had done as a student and a a few times in the army i tried marijuana in that campaign he showed he could slug it out do you think that it was fair to cut taxes for average you think the ranking tax bill of 81 was fair you finished down you finished yes or no yes or no are you finished are you finished are you going to answer are you even though his label after 15 years in the house and senate is moderate he's cast enough liberal votes to win high ratings from those interest groups gore rates highly with colleagues too known for studying futuristic issues like organ transplants telecommunications and space technology al gore is one of the universally recognized most able intelligent and informed members of the congress

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and informed members of the congress either house or senate he is out in front of the parade he is sometimes so far above beyond his senate colleagues that he is all by himself gore likes the front of the parade it's going to be interesting to see how someone who's spent so much time preparing to run for president adjusts to campaigning for a job he once called a political dead end bob kerr nbc news washington as for the sitting vice president the latest nbc news wall street journal poll asked the question if anything happened to president bush would you feel comfortable with dan quayle as president well fully two-thirds 66 percent said uncomfortable the clinton campaign today spent its first full day as the clinton gore campaign presenting itself as the agent of change in this election year that is the message the candidates will take to the convention that begins in new york on monday nbc's andrea mitchell is at the convention hall in new york tonight madison square garden andrea tom bill clinton paraded al gore around little rock today eager to be judged by his choice of vice president clinton got more than a running mate he found a jogging partner the youth team was out today looking for votes wherever they could find them al gore the strategy is to play up the fact that this is the youngest ticket ever to run for national office after the convention they'll hit the road together on a six-day bus tour i thought when i signed on without this outfit i was going to get in there i was in class we got clinton tried to draw a sharp contrast between his choice for vice president and george bush's this is my first decision that was george bush's first decision i think if we're evaluated on him i should be elected president gore's assignment in a clinton administration getting clinton's program through congress i don't want al gore to be the kind of vice president that sits in the united states state senate waiting to vote to break a tie i want him to break the logjam in washington what's far more important than the technical job description is the way we work together and and the

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is the way we work together and and the the the common views we have on getting this country moving again how can two career politicians represent change better than outsider ross perot even mr pro acknowledges that you have to get changed from within that is change won't come without congress going along we have a constitution he's implied that he might like to change it but for right now we've got a constitution still alluding clinton jesse jackson's endorsement clinton isn't about to negotiate for jackson's blessing well he'll just have to make up his mind on that like every other american will clinton rejected white house criticism that the ticket is too liberal saying that's the old dog they drag out every election i don't think it will hunt tom ander how are they going to play the south both the white and the black vote they're going to play it right away immediately first going to al gore's hometown of carthage tennessee for a big rally tomorrow morning and then on to nashville to the naacp convention by the way ross perot will also be

speaking there all right thank you very much andrea mitchell tonight the people who made willie horton a household name four years ago have a new attack ad this one promotes a phone service for callers to hear recordings of those alleged conversations between bill clinton and jennifer flowers president bush today told robert mcneil of pbs that he wanted no part of that ad stop it and i repudiate it now is the kind of sleaze that diminishes the political process and i'm surprised it was repeated on such a wonderful show as this because but it gives me the chance to say we're not in that business according to polls just out tonight ross perot's undeclared candidacy seems to be losing some of its steam recently in today's poll by usa today cnn and gallup bush leads with 35 percent perot has slipped five points behind and clinton a close third this poll was the first to put perrault in the lead that was just one month ago for his part perot was back on the

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for his part perot was back on the grassroots campaign trail today in lansing michigan to thank volunteers for getting 300 000 petition signatures putting him on that state spotlight you have created pure panic in both parties which is healthy for this country [Music] and all over washington the mood is the barbarians are at the gate is indeed bill clinton's big moment he has his running mate he'll soon have his party's nomination and today well today he got some more good news two polls released this day show clinton virtually tied with president bush and slightly ahead of ross pearl a strong showing for clinton so if timing is everything in politics and it probably is the timing couldn't be better for clinton with the democratic convention opening monday andrea mitchell is at madison square garden good evening andrea good evening garrett well bill clinton is spending the night in new york preparing for the biggest speech of his life but on the way he tried out the tickets appeal on the road [Music] the clinton and gore family started the day in the rural south al gore's hometown of carthage tennessee in a year when both parties are talking about family values al gore opened the campaign with a prayer but those of us who are believers would like to ask your blessings on this campaign and on the campaign of our opponents that the outcome would be in thy service it won't remain prayerful for very long our opponents are skilled in the politics as negative campaigning they'll tell you how liberal al is and how poor arkansas is all i've got to say is if he'd been running this government for the last four years we've been in better shape clinton and gore are both sons of the new south with strong civil rights records at the naacp convention today in

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at the naacp convention today in nashville they tested their appeal before black voters in a three-way race black support is even more important than usual to democratic chances i want us to be singing together in the white house in a year or so lift every voice and sing shall earth and heaven reign [Applause] let's make america sing again we have to move beyond us and them you and me and reach out for we the people it's all of us together clinton and gore are comfortable with black audiences have worked and campaigned with blacks for years ross perot earlier before the same audience he managed to offend many people by talking about how well his family had treated poor blacks in their hometown and by referring to blacks as you people financially at least it's going to be a long hot summer right now i don't have to tell you who gets hurt first when this sort of thing happens do i your people today your people dave perrault has been showing some strength among blacks in recent polls but today's choice of language hurt him it's sort of a word that uh sort of sudden type uh segregationist type word that uh says to us that you know you are separated from us general reaction to mr perot's speech from well okay i'm sorry i apologize clinton must still resolve his uneasy relationship with jesse jackson who has still not endorsed the ticket jackson is scheduled to speak before the convention tuesday night clinton aides said that it is traditional for people who address the convention

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convention to endorse the candidates and they still expect jackson to do so carrick thank you andrew mitchell well it has been noted and said that choosing a vice presidential running mate is a candidate's first presidential decision so what was with bill clinton choosing al gore and so it was four years ago when george bush picked dan quayle what does that decision mean for the president in this campaign here's tom pettit is

dan quayle an asset or a liability in the 1992 campaign he has learned a lot since that day in new orleans four years ago but inadvertently he still does some funny things well i know he's not an idiot in fact quail is the point man in the bush quail reelection campaign quail has been out front on many of the administration's issues it was dan quayle who first enunciated the so-called family values issue but today i'll be emphasizing the importance of family values i want to set the record straight i want to be very clear i like tammy wynette it doesn't help matters when primetime tv has murphy brown a character who supposedly epitomizes today's intelligent highly paid professional woman mocking the importance of fathers by bearing a child alone and calling it just another lifestyle choice quail speaks passionately against rock music that advocates killing cops what legitimate role does this have in society and i'm not talking about a law i'm talking about good judgment common sense and decency dan quayle has become the darling of the republican right wing but in doing so has ignited a minor dump quail boomlet and i believe that he needs to have a new running mate in order to i think strengthen the ticket would bush consider dumping quail veteran republican operative vic gold i would bet this home but you never uh that and anything else

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but you never uh that and anything else that is not going to happen writer jules whitcover noted quail basher the damage control in a situation like that may be more severe than it's worth taking the risk of replacing him in the first place for the bush campaign it is not a question of dumping quail it is a question of whether secretary of state baker can be persuaded to straighten out the entire campaign tom pettit nbc news washington tom pettitt makes an interesting point there secretary of state baker is president bush's closest political advisor and past campaign manager if he gets involved in this campaign it will be an open acknowledgement that bush is in serious trouble however if he does not get involved the campaign could get into deeper trouble so either way james baker is someone to keep a political eye on let's turn now to ross perot and lisa myers was covering the campaign that was with us ross perot needs a running mate what do we know about whom he's looking at and when we'll announcement well without question derek selecting a running mate is the most important and the most difficult choice that ross perot faces between now and september what he needs is someone who is credible who will be instantly perceived as being qualified to be president now politically they'd like to have someone who would help them in the in the northeast they're looking at blacks they're looking at women but the most important thing is that this person be credible okay if you're looking at blacks or women particularly blacks a minority candidate that would get a lot of attention maybe get him votes but today he didn't make many friends at the naacp what does that mean well i think ross perot's experience is showing that happened for two reasons first of all ross peron like most politicians has not been sensitized to a lot of the concerns of many groups of american voters but secondly he serves as his own speech writer so under most candidates would have been saved from their that mistake because someone would have caught it uh and while reading writing your own speeches may be laudable it's also uh brought with you here's what he said what we heard today now we're talking about ross pro picking

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about ross pro picking a running mate he hasn't even announced when finally do we get that announcement well probably late august that's the date they're now talking about after the republican convention before the big campaign on labor day absolutely thank you lisa myers for being with us well here it comes ready or not the spectacle the speeches and yes the excess of a national political convention sixty thousand balloons are ready for the democratic gathering starting tomorrow who will be there a lot of people among them four thousand two hundred eight delegates from maine to american samoa 15 000 members of the media and a couple of candidates named clinton and gore this is of course a no-contest convention that's just the way the democrats want it bob kerr is at madison square garden bob garrick no contest but not necessarily no problems almost everything is in place for the show of party unity bill clinton hopes to stage here though potential problems remain with jesse jackson and some others while jackson says he will vote for clinton he says his active enthusiastic support will require more dialogue as clinton left church in new york today a campaign aide said there will be further discussions with jackson about a role in the campaign still unlike other recent democratic nominees clinton will not spend convention week bargaining with jackson for his

support i think if you look at the at the sources of our support it's been a very inclusive campaign it included minorities and included people of all income groups all education groups and i'm going to continue to try to reach out and make it more inclusive in new york today jackson accused the clinton campaign of distancing itself from some traditionally democratic groups there was even a warning from governor cuomo i don't want addition by subtraction i don't want multiplication by division on meet the press jackson offered his qualified support for the clinton gore ticket they'll be supporting d.c statehood they'll be supporting cut the military budget they'll be supporting reinvest in our cities they'll be supporting money for head start for every american

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money for head start for every american child there's a certain movement in our direction and we intend to protect the progress that we've made and when asked about ross perot's remarks to the naacp in which he referred to blacks as you people jackson was quick to forgive that gap was not intentional or a politically motivated racially calculated statement with anti-abortion and abortion rights groups already using the convention as a backdrop senator gore said today he believes any plan for national health care should include federal funding of abortion beyond that he disagrees with clinton who says he'd have a litmus test to make sure his supreme court nominees support abortion rights and i would like to see justices who read the constitution in that way but i would not like to see a litmus test but that will be that's that's not a vice presidential decision with final preparations underway any concern about the appeal of a baby boomer southern based ticket were dismissed by at least one northeastern liberal i don't care whether bill clinton and al gore came from the same street in utah if they relate to the problem of the economy how to put people to work everybody will understand that after a four-day run here in new york the new democratic ticket will take its show on the road a six-day bus tour of eight states garrick thanks bob kerr in the past democratic conventions have been known for their squabbles and even their fights and that required someone with a loud gavel to maintain order well a fight there may not be this coming week but this convention does have a tough chair who can make her voice heard if needed texas governor ann richards here's jim cummins poor george he can't help it he was born with a silver foot in his mouth think about that speech i haven't had a real vacation since then

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vacation since then because that speech helped propel ann richards to the governor's mansion in texas but first she had to survive a bruising campaign against clayton williams a west texas oil man and cowboy richards trailed williams by as much as 30 points in the polls until she went on the attack accusing her millionaire opponent of not paying his taxes i was fighting for my life in 1986. i didn't pay any taxes i didn't have any income and we all had a bad year but we paid our taxes williams became desperate calling the lady a liar i called you a liar today oh i'm sorry he just refused to shake my richard said her plan worked she got her opponent to lose his cool the big significance was that he wouldn't shake my hand and and i knew that day that we we had it welcome to the first day of the new texas the new texas includes more women and minorities in key government jobs chevrolet suburbans instead of cadillac limousines and a governor with empathy for the underdog because she's been one meaning you know i'm an alcoholic and i'm recovering now 12 years she has a sense of humor and scores high in the public opinion polls even the boys at the ellis county livestock sale barn in waxahachie like governor anne i'm not going to put too much over on her she's a pretty tough lady you can tell if she runs again i'll she'll have my vote again if she runs again of course there are always those questions about running for president i don't want to live in washington right now i i like i love what i'm doing i'm crazy about this job the speech made her famous four years ago this week she will be center stage but when it's all over in new york ann richards will be ready to go back to doing business with the bubbas in texas jim cummins nbc news dallas from madison

00:38:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=2281s)

jim cummins nbc news dallas from madison square garden home of the knicks the rangers the circus heavyweight fights and this week a governor from arkansas his running mate from tennessee and five thousand democrats from around the country determined to break a long losing streak in presidential politics in the best political tradition they're determined that no constituency should go unnoticed the opening honor guard was made up of homeless veterans from four wars for bill clinton especially this is a second chance and as nbc's andrea mitchell tells us tonight his friends and advisers insist the real bill clinton is just getting to be known andrea tom this week is bill clinton's big chance to pull ahead of the competition he'll have hours of priceless air time to try to undo the damage of a grueling campaign his first priority erased false impressions that he was a spoiled rich kid who had everything handed to him today and all week you'll be hearing about his humble origins in hope arkansas my family many many of my relatives were poor for most of my life i mean really poor the larger message that clinton and gore represent change the future a way to get the country back on track i believe in my heart that the clinton gore ticket gives our country the best chance we can possibly have for the change we need the democrats are also trying to neutralize what they expect to be the willie horton issue of a republican attack on family values this is the image they want to project a happy family on the cover of people magazine the campaign wanted to show off the wives in a traditional setting an afternoon tea hillary clinton has tried to avoid all controversy lately but when california delegates pressed her to give jerry brown a role at the convention the carefully constructed unity is showing a few cracks

00:40:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=2401s)

showing a few cracks paul sanguis released his 555 delegates to clinton today but not without a warning we democrats lose the white house for one very simple reason nobody trusts us with the economy on meet the press mario cuomo gladdened republican hearts by praising clinton for proposing higher taxes without mentioning that clinton would only tax the rich on the trail today one questioner didn't think clinton's promises added up i i want to believe everything that you're saying you know it sounds real good and it's making everybody happy but where are you getting all this money from well that's the rub the wealthy have to pay their fair share again that's where we're going to get the money [Music] clinton is hoping to present a more moderate democratic party to america this week that will depend upon whether those who are left out are more interested in winning than doing what democrats usually do arguing amongst themselves tom thank you andrea a spokesman for ross perot today denied reports that perot has offered the second spot on his ticket to doug wilder of virginia the nation's only black governor wilder a democrat is not happy that no time has been set for him to address this convention and he has had contacts with the perot's staff but apparently nothing concrete the nominee of this convention will make his acceptance speech thursday night but governor clinton is with us right now from his hotel suite in midtown manhattan governor let's do a couple of house cleaning items if we can first of all doug wilder would that be a loss to lose him to the ross perot ticket and why have you not set a time for him to address this convention i did not know that no time had been set for him until today i talked to doug wilder a few days ago he had a very good talk i told him that i look forward to his coming here and that i wanted him to be part of our campaign and i had every reason to believe based on our talk that he would be so i didn't know that and i'm not sure that we can't correct that i didn't know it until today i had encouraged that he'd be given a time to speak as i have for all the people who ran in this primary process how about jerry brown will you allow him

00:42:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=2520s)

how about jerry brown will you allow him to address the convention as well well we're negotiating that now our people are discussing it with him the convention people are discussing it with him it's not just a question of whether he speaks but when and under what circumstances and whether he's going to endorse the campaign in the fall you know when we all started we were asked repeatedly if we would support the nominee of our party if we lost and i always said that i would i think that it's clear that we have far more in common than divides us and the brown campaign in particular should respond strongly to the campaign reforms that i've got here in this platform and the things that i insisted be put in to restrict the influence of lobbyists in washington to stop the revolving door from public service to private service and and those are the things i think that jerry brown really ran on that he struck a very responsive court on so i'm very hopeful

that we'll all be unified and that you'll see all the people who ran in this primary process are part of a unified campaign and also a part of this convention man is going to nominate you mario cuomo of new york sat at this very chair yesterday and said that you're going to have to have the courage to say to all the people of this country we're going to have to raise your taxes to eliminate the deficit are you prepared to do that i don't i'm not prepared to agree that we have to do that i don't think we ought to do uh george bush read my lips because nobody believes that anymore but it's clear to me that the taxes under this administration taxes have been raised on middle class people whose incomes were going down taxes have been lowered on the wealthy whose incomes were going up we can raise quite a lot of money just by asking people with incomes over two hundred thousand dollars to pay their fair share still less than they would have been paying in rates in 1980 and by asking people uh particularly foreign corporations who have reduced their tax liability while their incomes went up to pay their fair share i think that's where we ought to start i don't think we need an increase on the middle class their taxes have gone up while their incomes are going down governor in the platform it says everything is on the table in making the new economic plan does

00:44:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=2640s)

in making the new economic plan does that mean that social security is also on the table well not the sanctity of social security that is not on the table we make a clear commitment to the integrity and the sanctity of the social security system but you may have to pay more for it upper income people might have to pay more for it and only upper income people that's correct beginning at what level 60 and fifty thousand uh well above a hundred thousand so you will you are prepared to tell this convention that social security could be means tested if we are to get this back in balance no not means tested means tested would take benefits away from people who paid into social security i'm opposed to that the only question is whether upper income people who are getting more back from social security than they paid in and whose tax rates are limited capped should pay more for the benefits they receive i'm not for means testing social security it's one of the things that's really worked in our country because we haven't means tested it those programs that we've means tested have caused us a lot of trouble like medicaid which is ballooning in cost and not doing what it's supposed to do governor finally will you meet with jesse jackson before thursday night i don't know the answer to that i've been talking to him we've had a couple of good talks and i i called him and told him i appreciated his endorsement on sunday and i wouldn't rule it out but i have to spend most of my time between now and thursday working on my speech trying to you know cut it down some all right thank you very much yes it is a new era after all and you are the nominee this time thank you very much governor bill bradley bill clinton part two of our double bill tonight bill bradley he's the keynote speaker tonight and we'll be hearing from him later in this program as well and new york host city to the democrats the centerpiece of this first night of the democratic national convention keynote speeches from georgia governor zill miller former texas representative barbara jordan and three-term new jersey senator bill bradley the 48-year-old bradley passed on a presidential bid of his own this time after almost losing his senate seat in 1990.

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in 1990. a princeton graduate bradley like bill clinton is a rhodes scholar but before that basketball olympic gold in 1964 then 10 years with the knicks right here in madison square garden they remember dollar bill bradley here his number 24 is retired now it's hanging in the hall that is the scene of bradley's homecoming tonight and joining me now from our new york studios senator bill bradley senator you have been particularly eloquent on the subject of race this year senator jesse jackson is making it clear that he's not entirely happy with his treatment by the clinton campaign is his complaint justified in your judgment well i think reverend jackson endorsed governor clinton just the other day and it's incredibly important for all americans that bill clinton be the next president so i expect he and all of us are going to be pulling together for victory in the fall in the platform and in the tone of this campaign there's a good deal less this time about civil rights and a good deal more about responsibility and family responsibility and welfare reform the democratic party entering a new era with one of its core constituencies the black people of this country i don't think so i think that diversity is our strength not our weakness and the fact is that we have to reach out to all peoples african asian latino native americans and white americans we're all in this together and if we don't pull together we're

not going to make it we're either going to all advance together or each of us is going to be diminished it's as simple as that it's not a political choice it's a reality senator one of your passions of course is economics as you have looked at governor clinton's economic plan and you heard him tonight say that he thought that they wouldn't have to raise taxes on the middle class do you think it's possible to reduce the deficit in the next four years without raising taxes for everyone i think you can definitely reduce the deficit in the next four years i think that cutting spending ought to be the first priority i think that there's a lot of spending out there that can be cut and what about taxes itself however do

00:48:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=2880s)

and what about taxes itself however do you think it is possible to get the deficit down to a manageable level without raising the taxes for example some on the middle class as mario cuomo suggested here yesterday uh bill clinton have the courage to go before the american public and say he's going to do that i think that if you're going to eliminate the deficit in four years you're probably going to need some taxes the fact is though that which the american people should know what each of the candidates are going to do before they cast their votes so by october 1st i hope president bush is going to put out a program that will show how he would eliminate the budget deficit governor clinton has already begun to do that and ross perot who knows what he's going to do so the point is that the american people deserve to know what's in store for them in the economic area in the next four years as a student of american politics do you admire the way that ross perot has reignited the debate about american politics in this presidential year of 1992. um well he's an interesting factor i think he's benefiting from all the anti-government speeches that ronald reagan and george bush made for 12 years there's a certain irony in that fact he's also a hundred million dollars isn't peanuts i think that he can be a factor but also tom you know he hasn't yet taken that final step and until he does i'm not sure he's in thank you very much senator bill bradley we'll see you later tonight here at madison square garden when he is the keynote speaker the leadoff man the eighth ranking score of the new york knicks senator bill bradley back in a moment more news also john chancellor's commentary [Applause] one of the most demanding jobs in journalism has been a floor reporter at a political convention it requires comfortable shoes and sometimes sharp elbows in the crowds we want to talk to our three floor reporters for nbc news lisa myers andrew mitchell and john cochran who are there ready to go at madison square garden good evening and andrea let's start with you we're going to hear a lot of speeches this week but bill clinton is the big one any idea what he's gonna

00:50:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=3000s)

is the big one any idea what he's gonna say yes clinton's message and the message of this convention garrick is change action passing the torch to a new generation and moving the party back to center clinton also needs to try to correct the false image that he was a rich kid who had everything handed to him on a silver platter so you're going to hear a lot of talk about his humble origins in hope arkansas that key part of that strategy also with the selection of al gore is his running mate because they want to say that they are youthful they're energetic they're more future oriented than the competition and they also believe that the willie horton issue of this campaign is family values and you can't get much more squeaky clean than al gore his four kids and his wife tipper i don't know where the squeaky queen convention is going to be the most exciting one but lisa meyer is a unity which the democrats are pushing here is not typical of a democratic gathering is it real unity or is it contrived to a certain extent well it is they're fairly unified i think former vice president walter mondale said it best he said democrats are so starved for victory this year that we fi fo finally may rise above principle the platform has been mushed up they refer to spending as investment uh there even is language which denounces the philosophy of a program for every problem which is a little like the republicans coming out against capital investment we're talking about republicans john cochran you cover george bush at the white house you're in strange territory here what would bush not want to see come out of this convention i think he'd want to see what he would not want to see is to jc jesse jackson get on board and have this unified convention i'll tell you there were always people in the george bush camp who thought that bill clinton was going to be gonzo in this campaign even when clinton was running third in the polls now that parole is starting to slip a bit they're really worried they're really worried because al gore is on board they

think that gore has those positives where bill clinton has those negatives in the area of the character issue for example and you can expect the bush camp to go negative in this campaign if indeed pro slides more and clinton is clearly the competition gary i wouldn't uh underestimate this family values issue they really feel they have to inoculate against it neutralize it

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to inoculate against it neutralize it and so you're going to see a lot of all-american images here it's going to remind you a lot i think of the 1984 ronald reagan campaign lots of marching bands and and parades and they're going to de-emphasize all those liberal splits of the past well lisa this is getting more and more curious isn't it in a way this is a very significant move by the democratic party they're really rushing head along to the middle of the road oh they are and one of the what this convention is designed to do is not only to redefine bill clinton in the eyes of the american voter but also to redefine the and recast the democratic party uh the liberals are the unhappy ones the people the wing of the party that is left out of this convention and in fact they don't mind to hear a mind hearing a little bit of liberal complaining along the way you know we've been saying so many good things about al gore here let me say one thing the republicans do feel good about they think that al gore is not tough he's not a good attack politician he can't do what dan quayle will probably do in this campaign al gore can't get nasty the question is maybe voters don't want him to be nasty garrick we'll find out all right 88 debates thank you very much lisa andrea john good luck we were looking for you on your with your floor reports at the convention and a reminder about our convention coverage the nbc news team will be working with the mcneil lehrer report on pbs that starts tomorrow at 8 pm eastern time and then at 10 pm the coverage will be seen live here on the nbc television network and we'll be back with a look at the week ahead in just a moment we've heard a lot about geography and generational change in the past few days the democratic ticket is made up of a young governor from arkansas and a young senator from tennessee it's been called the double bubba ticket because there are two white male southerners on it bubbas well hardly this is a pair of ivy league overachievers but geography and young candidates aren't half as important to this year's politics as something else the movement of the democratic party from the left to the center of the political spectrum bill clinton and company are pushing and shoving the democratic party away from its allegiances with various interest groups labor

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with various interest groups labor unions feminists blacks gays one theory being that the democratic party became so involved with these groups that it lost its appeal to the great mass of middle class voters it has lost five of the last six presidential elections clinton and other moderates have argued for years that the party would keep on losing unless it got back to the center of the road that is now happening clinton is the nominee the party platform is a centrist document al gore clinton's moderate ally is on the ticket the fall campaign will be aimed at middle class democrats who've been voting for republicans the interest groups that received democratic party support for 20 years are very unhappy about this a representative of one of them said today that the clinton people are not creating a very good karma here that's right and that's the big news from this convention this is an important week not just for bill clinton but also for new york city which like clinton hopes to win new friends and present a new image to the delegates and to the country watching on television after all as nbc's bob herbert tells us tonight the big apple does taste a lot differently than many people [Music] realize [Music] the democrats have arrived in the city americans love to hate if new york sank into the hudson river wouldn't hurt my feelings public toilets on the streets of new york isn't that redundant badmouthing new york has become a national pastime it's so widespread we tend to forget how important new york really is to the rest of the country it is for example the nation's financial capital home of the new york stock exchange and headquarters of the banking and securities industries

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securities industries i remember when we were when when people thought new york city was going to go into bankruptcy people in the congress didn't really pay any attention until a school system in in arkansas couldn't finance because everybody was scared of municipal bonds in those days even the president didn't get it gerald ford had ignored new york's call for help but at an economic summit in europe president jisguard destang of france and chancellor helmut schmidt of west germany took ford aside and told him privately that a bankrupt new york would be a financial calamity it wasn't until that happened that the president of the united states finally really came to terms with the fact that this was an important thing most of what goes on in new york makes no difference to us unless you happen to work for a living new york is america's corporate capital with more national and international headquarters than any other city in the world it's also the center for major supporting industries like accounting public relations and advertising i think of new york as being the headquarters for arts and culture it's astonishing what a city like new york can encompass there's broadway here's the fashion industry new york is the telecommunications and media capital of the u.s the place where ideas are generated and disseminated getting bad-mouthed is one thing but new york feels it gets a raw deal financially from the rest of the country the city gets back only 77 cents in services for every dollar it sends to washington in taxes that's a loss to city residents of more than 10 billion dollars a year some people think it's the end thing to complain about new york but new york is still the greatest urban center in the world with all its faults i don't think that there's any place

00:58:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=3480s)

there's any place no place else like it bob herbert nbc news new york good evening once again from madison square garden where bill clinton and his team have managed to keep this convention right where they want it in the middle of the road with no major crack ups the jury problem is being solved jerry brown problem is being solved and jesse jackson's unhappiness has not gotten out of control tonight the clinton delegates will share their road map with the country the party platform a 20-page document designed to demonstrate this party is no longer interested in hard left turns nbc's andrea mitchell is on the floor of the convention with the latest for us now andrea tom the clinton campaign has announced that jerry brown has agreed to help the ticket and will stop his delegates from demonstrating on the floor that could clear one of the last obstacles to a smooth convention bill clinton made it clear today that he was not going to let brown dictate the terms of his endorsement in exchange for a prime time speaking role at the convention i don't think it's up to me to convince him to do that i think he needs to decide in his mind what he's going to do according to the rules brown can speak anyway early tomorrow evening but not in prime time brown may not be able to stop some of his more ardent delegates from raising a fuss on the floor as they did last night today one of them gave hillary clinton a hard time we ask you as governor clinton's partner in dr trying to make change in this country to ask him to open a dialogue with governor brown clinton and his team prefer to focus tonight on issues as the party adopts its platform one of the most powerful issues abortion rights as he left to jog this morning clinton was confronted by a man from operation rescue posing as an autograph seeker he tried to hand clinton what appeared to be a four-month-old fetus clinton recoiled but continued to greet passersby anyway on his morning in the park on abortion clinton and the platform favor abortion rights he said that does not mean abortion on demand being pro-choice is very different from being pro abortion the platform is liberal on

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pro abortion the platform is liberal on social issues such as gay rights and civil rights gay activists marched today in new york and two people with aids will address the convention tonight but on economic and other issues it is decidedly conservative it criticizes big government spending opposes over-regulating business and pledges to uphold law and order the party's women candidates practice today for their featured role tonight we got our own all-stars and we're playing hardball to win the clinton campaign thinks it has everything under control except for having absolutely no idea what to expect when jesse jackson addresses the convention tonight tom thank you andrew actually a california brown will address the convention tonight kathleen brown jerry's sister the california state treasurer who when asked about her brother responds by saying i'm a different shade of brown well the man in charge of keeping jerry brown and everyone else happy

including jesse jackson is democratic national chairman ron brown who's with us right now the brown people say it's all political fluff that you're spinning out that the governor has not endorsed bill clinton is that the case that is the case i had a good very constructive conversation with jerry brown this afternoon warm and cordial he indicated to me that he thought it was time to do what i had indicated we wanted to do and that is to have him inside rather than outside he indicated that he wanted to uh to address the convention during the time slot that the rules would permit in any event but why was bill clinton resisting the idea of him speaking without endorsing him well it wasn't bill clinton who was resisting that i said months ago that this was a a convention that was to promote our nominee this is not just a celebration of the end of the primary season this is a kickoff to a tough aggressive general election campaign we're focusing on doing everything we can to make sure bill clinton becomes president of the united states part of that is what we present here at the convention we want people at the microphone who support the ticket and are going to work

01:02:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=3720s)

support the ticket and are going to work for the ticket in the fall jesse jackson is not very happy either he's going to speak tonight but he makes it quite clear that he does not believe he's getting enough credit for turning out the black vote do you think that jesse jackson is crucial to turning out the black vote that you need in the world very crucial he's an asset to our party i've said that both privately and publicly for the last three and a half years jesse jackson has performed great work for the democratic party he's been a loyal democrat through thick and thin i expect him to work hard for the ticket in the fall well if he's all that why doesn't bill clinton ask him to come over to the hotel suite so they can talk about the fall oh i think we'll be talking about the fall of both during the convention and after the convention the meeting at the hotel you know what jesse jackson would like to have you'd like to have that big conspicuous meeting with the head of the ticket i think we demean jesse jackson by implying that that's all he's after he's been a loyal democrat i expect to be a loyal democrat during this campaign i'm not suggesting that's all that he's after but that's an important part of what he would like to see have happen here do you think that your relationship with him has been affected at all by today's column by david broder of who's a well-known national political writer saying that jesse jackson has been eclipsed by ron brown who is now the most important black in the democratic party first i don't agree with that assessment by david broder jesse jackson and i are friends we had a good conversation last night i don't expect our relationship to be affected by any column that's written by anybody is there resentment among the black elected officials around the country who do have to turn out to vote for themselves and who have worked hard for bill clinton that jesse jackson now very late in the campaign is coming in and trying to claim a larger share of the spotlight than even they will receive well we have a large number of uh elected officials african-american elected officials around the country have built their own constituencies uh they've won elections uh that's why they're in a position of power and influence in their communities their role is very important as is jesse's i think it's a question of us all working together as a team to to do what we have to do to to change america and get america back on track but does the clinton campaign help itself some with the kind of voter that has been trying to attract back to the democratic party especially the white male conservative

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especially the white male conservative by keeping some distance between bill clinton and jesse jackson i don't think so i think we've got to do two things and do them equally well we've got to continue to inspire and motivate our core constituents those who've been loyal democrats to the thick and thin at the same time we've got to get back some of those good democrats who've been voting for republicans in the last several cycles there's nothing incompatible on the one hand to persuade and motivate core constituents and and to really get back some of those others that you've lost that we've got to do both of those to elect bill clinton in november thank you very much ron brown who's a democratic national chairman as smooth as the large assortment of suits that he brought here to new york city thank you mr brown this will be a big night of course america close up tonight the year of the woman the first time the democrats convened in new york in 1868 susan b anthony spoke about women's rights well these days half the delegates are women and they have their sights on real power and their featured players here tonight hoping to find an audience among those not

watching baseball's all-star game nbc's lisa myers has more from the convention floor tonight on this subject lisa good evening tom this year for the first time in history it seems to be a bit of a political disadvantage to be a man this is the year of the woman they are the stars of this convention the six democratic women who've won their party's senate nominations women winning senate nominations isn't new six republican women did it two years ago what's different this year is the record number of women running and winning up and down the ticket and this year for the first time women are voting for women in much greater numbers it first happened in illinois with carol mosley braun stunning upset of an incumbent senator in the primary she won because of an overwhelming edge among women voters then came pennsylvania where an overwhelming majority among women voters propelled newcomer lynn yaekel to victory in the democratic primary one factor there and elsewhere is

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one factor there and elsewhere is backlash over the senate's treatment of anita hill the testimony of professor hill in the morning was flat out perjury since then contributions to groups that help elect women have tripled two percent may be good for milk but it ain't good for the united states senate women also are winning because of greater support from men california's feinstein and barbara boxer would have won their primaries even if not a single woman had voted one reason women are coming of age politically the issues the cold war is over we're not looking for this macho style who is going to defend us take on all comers really saying wait a minute what about those of us here at home who cares about us who cares about our families about our mortgages about our kids future the supreme court's restriction of abortion rights also has helped women candidates by mobilizing women voters but perhaps most important is public anger and hunger for change women are considered the ultimate outsiders for the past eight years i have been you know just like everybody else watching what was going on in government an outsider who said you know i want an opportunity to make a difference for former congresswoman geraldine ferraro the 1984 democratic vice presidential nominee to claim to be an outsider may be a stretch particularly when she touts her washington experience in the next breath carlos major opponent in the democratic primary new york attorney general robert abrams is trying to buck the political tide by proving that he's a better feminist than she is a fighter for abortion rights for 25 years a pioneer in bringing cases involving women who have been discriminated against in the workplace whether this turns out to be a watershed year for women depends on two things first the republicans women like congressional candidates susan stokes

01:08:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=4081s)

congressional candidates susan stokes have done well in the primaries but face a more treacherous political landscape because of presidents bush and reagan republican women have to prove to the electorate that as republicans they are as strongly for women as their democratic counterparts are second candidates like braun face tough challenges from republican opponents in the fall but many men are facing uphill struggles one pollster describes identical hypothetical male and female candidates to voters and the woman won by 10 points tom lisa one of the most conspicuous members of bill clinton's campaign of course is hillary clinton she was controversial during the primary season what are the plans for the general election for hillary clinton well i can assure you you won't hear any more discussion even jokingly about her serving in the cabinet or being in top advisor to her husband instead you're likely to see her more in the role that we've seen her this week as someone who attends teas and discusses her chocolate chip uh cookie recipe as she had as this has is this at this convention in the role of a traditional political spouse tom thank you very much lisa myerson for the old poem about the little man who isn't there he isn't there again today at this democratic convention that's ross perot he isn't here but he is the delegates think and talk more about him all the time about one-third of the delegates have either a close friend or a member of the family who is supporting perot what you hear often is the statement he won't last he'll pull out before long that may be more of a hope than a belief democrats from states where perot is doing well in the polls seem especially anxious and especially eager to believe any bad news about the perot campaign many of these delegates and elected officials seized on today's news items about pro trouble in perot's high command some were disappointed when the reports were denied the fact is the democrats are shaping a fall campaign that would work

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shaping a fall campaign that would work better if perot did collapse the old core constituencies of the democratic party black and union voters for example are getting less attention here than middle class suburban voters the party's loyalist base is less secure this year and in a three-way race between democrats republicans in perot holding on to the democratic base could be decisively important next month the republicans hold their convention and if perot is still in this thing the republicans will sound like democrats anxious and worried about the little man who isn't there good evening once again from madison square garden and we do have a major political story tonight but it's in the campaign of ross perot on a night when bill clinton is preparing to come here to madison square garden to at least acknowledge his nomination as a democratic presidential candidate the ross perot campaign has trouble at the top in texas one of the big name political handlers perot brought in from the outside has resigned nbc's john cochran has more on this story from the floor of this convention john tom it was always going to be a tough fit at best a man who hates the idea of handlers hiring some of the best and most opinionated handlers in the business and it didn't work ed rollins and hamilton jordan had won in the past but with candidates willing to take their advice jordan headed jimmy carter's victory in 1976 and rollins directed ronald reagan's re-election in 84. rollins wife quit her job at george bush's white house so her husband could help parole but today rollins left it's a basic difference of of when to get this thing started and and how to get it finished back when rollins and jordan signed up perrault admitted he needed help i promise the people a world-class campaign there'll just be a handful of months to pull it off get it done for the people we better have some people around that have done it before that are world class at doing it but perrault killed a plan by ed rollins to have tv ads produced by the man who

01:12:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=4321s)

to have tv ads produced by the man who turned out winning commercials for ronald reagan meanwhile the grassroots folks who worked to get parole on state ballots felt they were being pushed aside by the pros and they didn't like it it wasn't by a democratic process that people were elected in or out these people just came in and said you're gone you're gone you're gone and we're here outside experts brought in by perrault suddenly became disenchanted arms control expert paul nitza quit as an advisor because he was shocked by the ideas of perot's top foreign policy adviser perot also started to slip in the polls dissension in the parole camp built amid reports that hamilton jordan was ready to quit but when the announcement came late today it was rollins who was out we were not able to reach a mutual agreement on the course that this campaign ought to take neither neither my arrival nor my departure will affect this campaign one iota parole reportedly has also had trouble lining up a vice presidential running mate the latest name mentioned is bill moyers who served as lyndon johnson's white house press secretary a short time ago we asked a top clinton aide about uh the resignation of ed rollins the clinton aide said he thinks it's the beginning of the end for ross perot he also said he was not sure if this is too soon to be good for bill clinton or whether it's perfect timing under the perfect timing scenario now pro voters may look for someone else to vote against uh at the exact at the exact time when bill clinton is redefining himself under the too soon scenario a three-way race has always been thought by bill clinton's people to be easier to fight at this time tom well what it means john is that they're all still trying to figure out what this is likely to do to their campaign what are they saying at the bush white house they think it may help george bush because ed rollins was a ronald reagan conservative the feeling was that rollins might be able to take along some reagan conservatives into the parole camp now that won't happen they hope all right thank you john cochran we'll have commentary from john chancellor and all of this later in the program nothing of course so unexpected is

01:14:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=4440s)

nothing of course so unexpected is likely to happen to bill clinton's campaign this week he has this national convention well under control and the party moving in the direction he wants nbc's andrea mitchell tonight on what lies ahead for bill clinton andrea tom tonight is the night that bill clinton has been waiting for since he began his quest for the nomination now his challenge is to pull together a party that has a long tradition of

splitting apart while running to be the nominee clinton has also been trying to move the party with him toward the center that meant winning over liberals like mario cuomo in the past a critic of clinton's more moderate approach tonight cuomo will be nominating clinton a major coup for the nominee governor how do you feel about our governor nominating you tonight i'm pleased about it i'm pleased about it i think we'll get a fiery 1984 speech i don't know what he's going to say cuomo is expected to give a strong speech for the ticket even though he can't resist joking about those strange southerners it's important that bill clinton remind us all that we have that in common that you shouldn't be put off by the accents and the colors and the geography and the funny way he speaks cuomo recently put clinton on the spot by suggesting that he will have to raise more taxes to pay for what he's promised in an interview with nbc and pbs today clinton said he won't i don't think so and i'll tell you why the difference between my program and the republican program which has not produced growth is that my program is tied to investment liberals like jesse jackson have felt that clinton was taking them for granted even distancing himself from them in order to win back a larger group the white male democrats who defected to reagan and bush jackson's tepid endorsement came with this warning as democrats it's not our mission just to fight for the political center but the moral center the democratic chairman defended clinton's move to the center we do have to get back some of those good democratic voters who have been voting for republicans for president on social issues clinton has a strong

01:16:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=4560s)

on social issues clinton has a strong liberal streak it was his idea for two aid sufferers to speak to the convention we must vote as if our life depends upon it mine does mine does yours could and we all have so much to live for both wings of the party will be looking for signals in clinton's acceptance speech of how he'll balance their competing demands it's not an easy thing to do because it's a unique opportunity and there's you know there's a lot i want to say and i don't want to take three days to say it holding this coalition together won't be easy except for one thing liberals and conservatives are all sick of losing tom thank you andrea well since the economy is the big issue in this campaign and getting the federal budget in order bill clinton's economic game plan is getting careful examination these days and as nbc's lisa myers tells us now clintonomics is new math that doesn't always add up lisa tom clinton has made his economic plan the centerpiece of his campaign it has attracted a lot of attention and a lot of criticism as he moved around new york this week clinton encountered some skepticism among a public weary of politicians promises i i want to believe everything that you're saying you know it sounds real good and is making everybody happy but where are you getting all of this money from that skepticism is shared by some economists clinton's plan claims you can increase spending 50 billion a year and still cut the budget deficit in half in four years it's the hot fudge sunday diet you eat all the hot bed vegetables you like and lose weight it doesn't work that way many economists do give clinton good marks for identifying important domestic priorities he would spend more money for 23 different programs everything from student loans to roads and bridges to a high speed rail system he also

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to a high speed rail system he also would cut taxes for the working poor and the middle class every person in the middle class income range that is under eighty thousand dollars will either get some rate reduction or will get a tax credit instead of a tax deduction for their children here's what doesn't add up we're going to get this money to pay for this program by savings by cuts and by raising money where it can be fairly raised clinton will raise taxes on corporations and on what he calls the super rich couples with incomes above about 180 000 a year he also will cut defense spending by slightly more than president bush to help pay for his programs the problem is that the only specific domestic spending cut is elimination of a subsidy for beekeepers which saves a meager 200 million dollars a year beyond that alleged savings are mostly through government reforms cutting administrative costs and every presidential candidate's dream the line-item veto on the key issue entitlements government benefits like social security clinton's plan does very little governor clinton says that he would find a total of some four billion dollars in entitlement savings over four years heck entitlements will be 900 billion dollars a year four years from now so how does clinton come up with the numbers to supposedly reduce the deficit growth more than 70 percent of the projected drop in the deficit is

based on the assumption that the economy will recover smartly under a clinton presidency well everybody tries that we once had a guy named ron reagan was president he tried that too but didn't work out very well the bottom line is this clinton basically is proposing 50 billion dollars a year in new spending raising taxes on the wealthy more than he's cutting them for the middle class then counting on the economy growing fast enough to bring the deficit down you have to have spending cuts and or tax increases there is no other magic potion to make

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there is no other magic potion to make deficits go down even economists who serve democratic presidents say clinton's plan simply is not credible as far as the eye can see i think the budget deficit under the clinton plan would go on just the way it has over the last decade this is more a political document than an economic plan and clinton has given no indication that once elected he would take bold steps to bring the deficit under control tom thank you lisa and chancellor with commentary now on the ross perot campaign shake-up today john right we don't know we have now seen act one and act two of the drama called ross perot runs for the white house act one began last february when perot said he'd be willing to run at that time he was in his lone ranger mode the non-politician crusader act one was a runaway hit millions of people called him from every state he zoomed upward in the polls and he began to look like he would be highly competitive in the november election act two began when perrault hired political professionals to help him with his campaign among them ed rollins who ran ronald reagan's successful campaign in 1984 and as the professionals settled in the press and the public began asking where perrault stood on policy questions the professional said he couldn't win unless he answered those questions he needed a platform and an advertising campaign perot began to look less like the lone ranger and more like just another guy who wants to be president and his terrific poll ratings began to slip perot's problem is that he does well when he's not political but he can't get elected unless he is political so we are now in act three it looks as though perot will try to continue with as few professionals as possible perhaps only hamilton jordan and try to get back to his lone ranger mode it worked before maybe it will work again if not we are likely to see a dramatic act four tom one more demonstration of ufo on

01:22:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=4920s)

one more demonstration of ufo on american politics the unforeseen occurring we'll be back with a final look at what's coming up here tonight in just a moment evening from madison square garden well ross perot who promised his followers that he would stand and fight today decided to cut and run he quit the race for the white house saying he had concluded he could not win the fall of perot came as swiftly as the rise of this maverick billionaire and just as his presence scrambled presidential politics so will his absence nbc's lisa myers has been our correspondent on the perot campaign lisa tom this was quintessential ross perot his campaign was collapsing and spinning out of control yet parole claimed his decision to quit was based on the national interest i'm not in this for ego i'm not in this for fun i'm not in this for gratification i'm in this for what's good for my country what's good for our children our grandchildren and i'm trying to do the right thing is that something perrault said that with clinton and the democrats coming on strong now he concluded that he couldn't win to stay in the race would only deadlock the election putting this thing in the house of representatives is negative and disruptive and we shouldn't do it it was a sudden end to an odyssey which began only five months ago perot's meteoric rise in the polls was followed by an even swifter collapse mostly perot had himself to blame after hiring two top political handlers he refused to take their advice insisting on total control the skills that i have of knowing how to run a campaign were not being utilized ed rollins the co-campaign manager who resigned yesterday implored perrault to counter a barrage of negative stories with positive tv ads perrault didn't listen parole also insisted on writing his own speeches so there was no one to save him from himself when he referred to blacks as quote you people well okay

01:24:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=5040s)

as quote you people well okay i'm sorry i apologize perot's decision to quit when things didn't go his way wasn't surprising he did it in the navy first he wanted a naval career two years later he tried to quit he did it again at general motors promising to change its corporate culture quitting two years later the irony is that perot's carefully cultivated image was that of a man who persevered today's withdrawal made his earlier speeches ring a bit hollow never forget churchill's words spoken at a very critical time during world war ii never give in never give in never never never god bless you all perrault did shake up the system and made this campaign infinitely more interesting but but in the end he may leave those he inspired even more disillusioned tom thank you lisa one of mr perot's closest business associates and a man who's been involved in his friend's unconventional presidential campaign from the beginning is with us now from dallas tonight mort myerson uh mr meyerson or mortis you've asked me to call you the last thing that ross perot's volunteers expected was that he would quit isn't this only going to deepen the cynicism that he set out to correct in american politics well i hope that it doesn't it may deepen the cynicism but my wish is is that the two parties will listen to what the volunteers were saying to them and they're saying change your ways but let me ask you about ross perot did it turn out that running for president was a whole lot tougher and more complicated than he thought it was going to be i don't think it was a whole lot tougher than he expected to be but certainly was very complicated and i don't think that he anticipated that he would be put into position where he had to choose between the wonderful support that he got from the volunteers and what he believes were the best interests of the country mr meyerson he did today cite the possibility that this would go into the

01:26:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=5160s)

possibility that this would go into the house of representatives that rings a little hollow after all the election is still a long way away ross perot has learned in the course of the season that as quickly as you fall you can rise again why didn't he believe that he could win it outright well uh contrary to popular belief or at least the belief that's being put on him by the press he actually listens to people and there's been a discussion going on for a number of weeks about whether this campaign was winnable outright what the odds were and what the odds that it would go into the house there had been discussion of that three and four months ago now it appeared and the best mind said we think it's going to go into the house and then he said he figured this would be disruptive i don't think it rings hollow but everybody's entitled their own opinion more meyerson he talked a lot about change that was the underpinning of the ross perot campaign does he believe that bill clinton or george bush is more likely to bring change to america well it would seem that way at the time it looks like the platform of the democrats has moved more to the center they're listening more to the people out in the country and i would say that it's more relevant to what's going on in the country than past platforms that i've noticed now what the gop will do heaven only knows we'll have to wait till they have their convention what can ross perot possibly say to those volunteers across this country who were stunned today by his decision many of whom have made financial sacrifices to work in his behalf i think all he can say is that i regret that this has happened i'm sorry but i had to choose what i thought was the best course of action for our country now i have heard lisa myers say that she thought that that was flippant and that really wasn't real i'm here to tell you that that's the way he was thinking when he talked to me last night was money a consideration in all of this no money was not a consideration money is very you know ross is spending his own money that makes him a different character than anybody else that's running a presidential campaign and he would run a campaign like he runs a business on the other hand he told me before we got started while

01:28:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=5280s)

he told me before we got started while we were there and last night money is not the issue what's that issue is what he perceives to be the right thing to do is he prepared for the idea that he has gone from folk folk hero to a man who may be recorded eventually by historians is just looking a little foolish in american presidential politics i think that he would hate that idea i would hope that it wouldn't happen that way but once again if you had to choose between the way you look personally and what you fervently believe is in the best interest of the country i would hope that others would do the same that he did he chose the country mort myerson thank you very much for being with us tonight from the parole headquarters in dallas for their part

george bush and bill clinton were like two fastback lawyers moving among the bereaved the pro volunteers expressing their sympathy but at the same time handing out their cards looking for their business nbc's andrea mitchell tonight on how this is affecting the clinton campaign first andrea tom bill clinton didn't waste any time making a direct appeal to ross perot and his disappointed supporters clinton wants to persuade perot voters that he is the only remaining candidate who represents change he called perrault within minutes of his announcement i told him that i was deeply moved by a statement very impressed by his campaign and then i wanted to reach out to his supporters because i thought they wanted the same sort of change that i did the party chairman was handed word about perot's decision in the middle of a women's caucus meeting [Applause] the official line is that clinton benefits because he is more of an outsider than george bush george bush can't possibly be a candidate of change he's the epitome of the status quo other democrats acknowledge the downside i always thought that that parole took more from bush than he took from clinton so frankly i would have preferred that he had remained in race the second flank which ross perot was providing is suddenly lost bill clinton has to go it alone one-on-one with george bush perot's departure makes it likely that more people will be looking clinton over

01:30:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=5401s)

more people will be looking clinton over tonight when he delivers his acceptance speech and ohio cast 144 votes for the next president of the united states bill clinton the convention has given him a lot of exposure almost all positive especially last night's skillfully orchestrated appearance at madison square garden i want to thank you all for being here and loving your country and to tell you that tomorrow night i will be the comeback kid clinton tested the podium today for his acceptance speech he has added a paragraph suggesting to peros supporters that he can help them change america and he will emphasize his personal history and his wife's trying to erase negative impressions that continue to trouble the campaign campaign polling indicates that two-thirds of americans don't know who bill clinton really is changing that is his primary assignment tonight tom thank you andrea president bush was also on the telephone to ross perot today and reaching out to his volunteers from the wyoming fishing retreat of the president's friend secretary of state james baker our white house correspondent now john cochran john tom the bush campaign has had trouble doing even simple things right and a three-man race was not simple it was complicated now perrault is gone and republicans think it will be a lot easier to aim their heavy artillery at one man bill clinton the president interrupted his wyoming vacation calling peru to ask for his support and later appealing to his backers we will make it clear to all those bro supporters that we share many of their same principles we many of the supporters were basically conservative people today the bush crowd couldn't say enough good things about parole it was not always so vice president quayle a month ago it would be a serious mistake to replace a genuine statesman with a temperamental tycoon who has contempt

01:32:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=5521s)

temperamental tycoon who has contempt for the constitution of the united states bush says parole supporters are conservatives but if they are they are conservatives who are fed up and want change so the president must now sell himself as an agent of change and that is as hard for bush now as it was before perot quit but the bush crowd believes his departure will help bush in conservative areas where perot was strong the south and the west in the end it will help george bush although that won't be obvious for the next two weeks or so because we're right in the middle of the big clinton bounce and the big clinton honeymoon as george bush focuses now on only one opponent he's expected to ask soon his old pal jim baker to leave the state department to help him take on that one opponent bill clinton bush admitted today that is an option and bush's aides think it's a lot more than just an option tom thank you john and a lot of people at senior levels and the republican administration think it's now reached critical mass and that jim baker would have to take that job more than any candidate in recent times however ross perot has depended on volunteers encouraged them promise them a world-class campaign and then quit without notice as nbc's bob dodson tells us tonight they are not happy it was like a prom full of people with no dates i know we're just crushed and i'm so sorry but we are right now closing up he told us in the beginning that he would not spoil it because we can't answer the phones anymore let's just leave it unplugged like a 17 year old left standing no one

wanted to believe washington state is pressing on with the campaign why don't you dump your load on a piece of paper and mail it to us pero had enough signatures to put him on the ballot in 24 states but few who signed read the fine print that said he might pull out they were convinced he would change the country instead he simply changed them just numb very numb i couldn't believe it in dallas perot's hometown bitterness his arizona chairman had just flown in for a fall strategy session we

01:34:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=5641s)

flown in for a fall strategy session we were here to improve on a political system where the election of a president of the biggest and most important country in the world is flawed and we counted on mr pro to fix that system you can't imagine what people put into this campaign they put their soul their very existence their time their money today the money bought not a vote but a final souvenir you say the campaign's going on without a candidate yeah no it's got a candidate and it's going to go forward 750 000 parole supporters must now find someone else but their pain is too near the shock too great to think about that wouldn't you go for clinton wouldn't you go there no no no no no i love these people we have one candidate who is certainly from a tax and spend party and we have another one who i fear will absolutely destroy the united states which one would i give my loyalty to it has to go to one or the other or into neutral and i'm not a neutral type of person in the end it was a business-like decision hard-headed but this campaign was built on heart today the hearts lost bob dudson nbc news atlanta when nightly news continues in a moment time warner feels the heat over the lyrics of a rap song well it has been another astonishing day in an astonishing year john chancellor with commentary now on ross perot quitting the race john what a difference a few hours makes in presidential politics when george bush got up this morning he was facing two opponents who were after his job facing a complicated dangerous fall campaign when the president turns off the light tonight his life will be much simpler and the odds on his re-election much better the reason of course is that he now faces only one opponent bill clinton ross perot is out but much more important ross perot's money is no longer a factor in this election perot had been planning on

01:36:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=5761s)

election perot had been planning on spending maybe 100 million dollars of his own money this fall ross perot doesn't throw money around but he easily could have paid for the most expensive political advertising campaign in history he could have bought as many television ads as bush and clinton combined and the pro ads would have hurt bush much more than clinton because perot's grievances are about the deficit the national debt the lack of american competitiveness the failures of american trade policy etc these are the things bill clinton complains about so as long as ross perot stayed in the president had a big re-election problem two advertising campaigns criticizing the record of the reagan bush years two opponents who would have cut into mr bush's stronghold in the south a three-way race would have been a big headache for the republicans which is why the perot pull-out is such good news for the president unified democratic party a harmonious convention so today they loaded their message onto a bus and moved out of the big apple headed for the heartland nbc's andrea mitchell is covering the clinton gore ticket before hitting the road the democratic ticket launched a major effort to win the backing of ross perot's supporters bill clinton and al gore are both career politicians and their kickoff rally had all the trappings of a traditional democratic campaign but to attract perot voters they are portraying their campaign as a grassroots movement for change supporting that claim top parole new york organizers who endorsed the democrats today we are here to begin a transition from people for perot to parole people for clinton the new york chairman turned in his parole credentials in exchange for a clinton button and a promise we must honor that all of us and we must join with them to take our country back move our country forward lift our country up that is the commitment

01:38:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=5880s)

country up that is the commitment that al gore and i make today now that it is a two-man race again clinton has to shift back to the old electoral map he needs to get back the reagan democrats moderates who deserted the party in 1980. and before we're through we're going to go back to the heartland of america and

into the hearts of america we're going to take the people who were for parole the people who are democrats the people who are republicans the people who had given up and dropped out and built a coalition to reclaim our country's heritage thank you the clintons and gore's then boarded the lead bus in an eight bus caravan heading across nine states from new york to st louis they are trying to appeal to the middle class swing voter the people clinton was targeting in his acceptance speech what is george bush doing about our economic problems he has raised taxes on the people driving pickup trucks and lowered taxes on the people riding in limousines we can do better on the bus tours first stop clinton spoke to ge aerospace workers the kind of people he claims his economic program would help so what we have to do is to make change our friend not our enemy by keeping people first and making government a partner with the private sector in creating jobs and making sure people can do them clinton is riding high after a successful convention but knows that lead can evaporate overnight another reason to campaign hard right away is that he's anticipating a tough republican counter-attack andrea mitchell nbc news with the clinton campaign in camden new jersey at the same time president bush today ended a brief fly fishing vacation with secretary of state james baker in wyoming and immediately began casting for ross perot voters himself nbc's john cochran is our white house correspondent john tom a president who once prided himself as the ultimate washington insider today lined up on the side of voters who are mad as heck at washington and aren't going to take it anymore bush picked a good place to distance

01:40:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=6001s)

bush picked a good place to distance himself from washington a wyoming picnic politics for too many people has become synonymous with slogans posturing and it's come to mean the opposite of progress and today i have a message for anyone who supported ross perot and any american who identifies with that frustration that brought them together i hear you and you've come through loud and clear the bush campaign also began face-to-face negotiations with parole workers after meeting with parole volunteers in louisville vice president quayle said he got no commitments but will keep pushing they're let down they're frustrated and we want to to reach out and to talk with them quail refused to repeat his accusation last month that perot is a temperamental tycoon who has contempt for the constitution but later quail offered a negative assessment of perot as presidential material i believe that ross perot would not have been a good president now that bush is back on the road his aides plan a campaign that sounds much like the successful strategy of four years ago no willie horton this time maybe but remember how the bush campaign tried to nail michael dukakis as a liberal well the dreaded l word is back we will draw a dramatic contrast between the liberal tax and spend philosophy of governor clinton's campaign and the economic growth and values agenda of president bush bush and his surrogates will also try to appeal to parole supporters by attacking democrats in congress again and again they couldn't run a bank or a post office or a restaurant how the hell can they run a country the big temptation for the bush campaign will be to go after bill clinton on the so-called character issue his personal life but so far the president says he will not fight a dirty campaign tom thank you john when nightly news continues in a moment the building controversy over that french abortion pill will it become legal in america and

01:42:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=6120s)

will it become legal in america and keith morrison tonight on the james dean phenomenon that original prescription for one dose relief on america close up tonight networking is second nature to politicians but for bill clinton it's also an art form the circle of friends contacts and allies that he's cultivated over the years even has its own name the friends of bill fob nice to have when you're running for president nbc's bob kerr begins our report in new york city they were out in force again this week arkansas friends of bill clinton full of pride and warmth for their home state hero from arkansas and beyond clinton's built a network of friends one of the things that brought us together was a common intense feeling not just about the war in vietnam which was the topic of the day but about the issues of racism in america but now it's on to chicago and let's win there since the day of uh rfk there's been sort of a an outside the government think tank established that's thought about these issues that have contemplated the issues that are going to have to be addressed since college at georgetown oxford and yale clinton has remained friends with fellow students who shared his

interest in government bill clinton's rolodex his friends his his acquaintances his brain trust is very diverse extends all over the country roger altman wall street former treasury official met at georgetown 46. william coleman iii detroit lawyer met at yale law school 45 randy goodrum hollywood songwriter friend since high school 45 robert reich harvard economist met at oxford 46 susan thomas new york lawyer political operative friends since the 60s 48 linda

01:44:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=6242s)

friends since the 60s 48 linda bloodworth thomason hollywood tv producer designing women friend from arkansas 44. many of clinton's close friends have become policy advisors and now this 40-something group is eager to move its floating conversation about issues to the oval office he's been described as a master at the art of networking is he well he's obviously got a very wide circle of friends and contacts and that doesn't happen by itself and when he would think of something that he wanted to accomplish in arkansas or any place in the country if he thought of the person who knew something about that he would call you up call on randy goodroom to compose music for the clinton biography shown at the convention call on another arkansas friend tv producer linda bloodworth thomason to do the video and when clinton's campaign was in crisis in new hampshire friends rushed in to lift his spirits it was like a high school reunion i mean there were so many old friends that did the same thing we didn't call each other and play anything we just everybody just showed up most of his friends are her friends too and some were hers first she's absolutely central to this effort what phrase do you want to use real partner i mean she sure is she does not take the role as as wife she takes the role as as participants friends who think the world of them insists the country does not know the clintons the way they do so now bill clinton hopes to widen his circle of friends bob kerr nbc news new york in a moment hope's raised yet again in bosnia and john chancellor's commentary tonight on ross perot red devil chancellor with commentary now on the ross perot campaign shake-up today john right we don't know we have now seen act 1 and act 2 of the drama

01:46:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=6362s)

seen act 1 and act 2 of the drama called ross perot runs for the white house act 1 began last february when perot said he'd be willing to run at that time he was in his lone ranger mode the non-politician crusader act one was a runaway hit millions of people called him from every state he zoomed upward in the polls and he began to look like he would be highly competitive in the november election act two began when perot hired political professionals to help him with his campaign among them ed rollins who ran ronald reagan's successful campaign in 1984 and as the professionals settled in the press and the public began asking where perrault stood on policy questions the professional said he couldn't win unless he answered those questions he needed a platform and an advertising campaign perot began to look less like the lone ranger and more like just another guy who wants to be president and his terrific poll ratings began to slip perot's problem is that he does well when he's not political but he can't get elected unless he is political so we are now in act three it looks as though perot will try to continue with as few professionals as possible perhaps only hamilton jordan and try to get back to his lone ranger mode it worked before maybe it will work again if not we are likely to see a dramatic act four tom one more demonstration of ufo on american politics the unforeseen occurring we'll be back with a final look at what's coming up here tonight in just a moment evening hillary clinton said today quote it is kind of like being on a rock tour well her husband the candidate is certainly on a roll these days their campaign bus strip is floating on the latest polls which show bill clinton with a commanding lead over george bush but and it's a big but of course both sides know there is still a long road to travel until november for clinton that road runs through carlisle pennsylvania

01:48:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=6480s)

pennsylvania he was there today and that's where andrew mitchell is tonight andrea garrick bill clinton and al gore are on a thousand-mile trek in search of blue-collar voters they found plenty of them on the road today in pennsylvania at the all-american truck stop in carlisle clinton and gore zeroed in on their target voters moderate and conservative democrats who have been voting republican people who supported ross perot

and dissatisfied republicans we're asking for the votes of republicans and independents anybody who wants to get this country moving again and restore the economy clinton is riding high on two new polls showing him ahead by at least 20 points a bigger post-convention jump than usual but he knows polls can go down just as quickly let me tell you something this is a tough old business if you win by one vote you've done a damn good deal gore also delivered today's message republicans and democrats and independents and perot supporters all are joining in this crusade on behalf of the american people to change this country for the better now that it is once again a two-man race these are the people who could swing this year's election we believe that the sons and the daughters of stenographers and steel workers and truck drivers should be able to go to college if they want to go clinton has been energized by the crowds which have been large and enthusiastic we're gonna go shut cans now here we started here come on when the caravan arrived last night in york pennsylvania nothing had been scheduled but 2 000 people were waiting at his hotel clinton insisted on going into the crowd i hope he'll be with us along the way the bus tour also stopped for a potluck dinner with teamsters in coatesville pennsylvania and at one point the caravan found or produced a perot supporter who didn't mind having tiffergore relabel his vehicle rules also show that clinton not bush is picking up most of the perot supporters who are willing to switch to other candidates carrick thank you andrea

01:50:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=6600s)

candidates carrick thank you andrea mitchell so what does george bush do now to catch up well starts campaigning and attacking hard and earlier than he had planned jim lukaszewski is traveling with a president the bush campaign is running scared they had always expected clinton to get a post-convention boost in the polls but one bush aide said they never thought bush would be this far behind and they expect it to get worse so bush broke his own timetable and went on the attack early before the conservative faithful at brigham young university in his first slam at the democrats since their convention bush attacked them as liberals by quoting of all people the liberal george mcgovern he called this year's democratic ticket a trojan horse and he said and i quote they're much more liberal underneath and will prove it when they're elected now i know i've never said this publicly but one they won't be elected and george mcgovern is an incredibly insightful man this entire event became a celebration of liberal bashing and if there was ever a team of pretty boys it's bill clinton and al gore this is conservative republican territory but before he dropped out ross perot started to eat into bush's support even here so bush came here to get it back ross perot's supporters believe in the same principles in which i believe but bush now also has to compete with al gore's environmental fervor so the campaign staged an outdoor event but despite some renewed vigor today bush sounded at one point as if his heart just wasn't in him anybody should feel like withdrawing or pulling away from something i could make a case for the bush family but but i i'm not about to do that because i i do believe in some of the stuff that that i uh you know face to fit problems face to solve and i'm going to keep on saying what i believe

01:52:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=6721s)

to keep on saying what i believe bush will continue to pursue perot's supporters but the campaign has all but dismissed perrault himself bush aides believe that perrault has now set out to save his own hide and reputation and not some political movement jim miklaszewski nbc news salt lake city well now can the movement perot unleashed serve any role without his act of leadership what does perot plan to do now these are just some of the questions that many of the supporters were asking today and so far there are no real answers even perot is giving conflicting signals here's our correspondent no one else in orlando florida orange county california staten island new york small rally sparsely attended by ross perot's most ardent followers after we put all this faith and energy into into getting something done and letting our voice be heard i'm not going to fall back and disappear no but in dallas perot's hometown a rally scheduled for today was cancelled with parole fading into the background his supporters are desperately seeking to hold their political alliance together i've got time to talk to you right now today some of perot state petition coordinators met attempting to salvage something from their eroding movement we're working to develop a consensus among all the state leadership that come in from across the country they had put their trust in me last night on a national talk show pro took heat from citizens who said he had let them down by pulling out of the race mr pearl i'm sorry but i think you're all doe and no show you made a promise and you didn't keep your word but

speaking like a man whose options were still open refused to slam the door on his supporters i have not gone away i will stay with them right through the end i will help and support them any way i can or play any role they want me to whether he is a candidate or not many supporters want him to stay active in the political movement they say he represents we hope he's going to stand in the leadership role

01:54:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=6840s)

stand in the leadership role we're disappointed because he's not a presidential candidate but we hope he stays as a leader late today perot's petition coordinators went to a private meeting with him where they hope to convince him to return to the campaign noah nelson nbc news dallas so what do perot supporters do now clarence friend was a parole coordinator in orange county california good evening sir thank you for being with us do you still consider yourself to be actively coordinating a parole movement if not a campaign there uh yes i do gary what are you gonna do without a leader without a candidate well garrick as you well know and most the people across the country know that mr pro was placed on the ballot by the support of the voters the citizenry and we're going to continue to move forward in holding our views to make the republican and democratic parties accountable of course i personally hope that mr perot will reconsider and uh will jump back into the race but even if he doesn't i'm still supporting him and i think a great deal of the man was uh we heard today that pearl said again that no means no he's not going to be a candidate but can a movement have any kind of real credibility after its candidate has walked off the ship like this realistically speaking well again i believe that we the people have placed mr perot on the ballot and i believe that we've all realized the power that we have if we join together and i i think that we definitely have a movement here i'm certain that in the next several days the u.s public will find out that we have a plan and that we are moving forward and we really encourage them to stay on board and to join in you've known mr perot for some time are you personally disappointed a sense of betrayal even well i'm deeply saddened uh i won't say betrayal but i'm certainly deeply saddened i i didn't expect this all right clarence friend from orange county california

01:56:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=6960s)

friend from orange county california thank you very much for being with us this evening and finally this evening ross perot a couple of months ago when he was riding high in the campaign i asked him what are you he replied without a flicker of hesitation i'm an engineer and a salesman interesting answer in view of himself of course we saw and heard that salesman the assurances that our most intractable problems could be solved without breaking a sweat as he liked to say but a salesman is only as good as his product and perot's was not as good as his talk he never did after all present his plan to fix government and the economy the engineer's side of him the side which faces facts squarely understood that a plan that would work would cause a lot of sweat and sacrifice indeed that was a reality perot was not willing to face or perhaps he thought voters would not face and so he wouldn't be elected and so he quit some who supported ross pearl may feel that they have been seduced and abandoned by a fast-talking salesman but perrault did accomplish something of value in the end he reminded all of us that there is no such thing as a political messiah and there are no easy solutions the problems we need to solve and if his supporters stay involved in politics truly engaged and try to change things then ross pearl will have started something important even if he is not around to finish it come election day and that is our look at our world this saturday join us tomorrow morning for sunday today followed by meet the press i'm garrett gutley good night for nbc news [Applause] today in dallas perot met with loyal backers from around the country they want to keep their movement going and perot has committed some of his money to them but it's unclear how much money or what other role if any he will play george bush was not campaigning today but bill clinton was his bus trip took him through wheeling

01:58:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=7080s)

his bus trip took him through wheeling west virginia and that's where bob kerr is this evening bob garrett good evening to you another day another 160 miles on the odometer as bill clinton's bus tour rolled through pennsylvania west virginia and into ohio still more big enthusiastic crowds greeted clinton and al gore as they

began trying to deflect republican attacks that already have begun they'll tell you we're too liberal and we're too young and we're to this and we're to that and we're to the other thing i'll tell you what we're too much for the american people for their taste and we will give you your government back if you'll give us a chance to do it on local news three hours before clinton pulled into pittsburgh bush labor secretary lynn martin was on all the stations pinning a liberal label on the new ticket how can you have a platform that increases spending increases taxes increases the deficit and say you want to go in a new direction we have heard that for years that's the way the republicans are on their campaign all they know how to do is bad mouth people personally and say they're what clinton hopes to do is keep the focus on economic growth today's backdrop the nation's eighth largest steel producer saved in the 80s by innovative employee ownership the clinton gore plan is simple put people first invest in jobs invest in education provide affordable health care the plan is more simple than paying for it but there is little time for complexities as the campaign rolls through the heartland anti-abortion activists show up almost everywhere and today during a broadcast to several religious congregations clinton responded to a priest who questioned the candidate's abortion rights position i just think that my job as president and your job as priests are two different jobs abortion is one of the issues where there's a clear difference between clinton and bush and that difference is expected to be highlighted throughout this campaign thank you bob kerr

02:00:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=7201s)

this campaign thank you bob kerr crucial issue in this campaign is the economy how to get it moving again while at the same time attacking the deficit it's a very difficult combination and today the clinton and bush campaigns were trying to sell their plans while the magnitude of this challenge was spelled out in a plan that ross perot was considering before he quit this is andrea mitchell tonight with bill clinton john cochran with the president andrea let's begin with you on the road in kentucky tom bill clinton has been promising a lot on this bus tour but he hasn't been specific about how he'd pay for all his new programs to the crowd at the courthouse in wilmington ohio clinton's economic plan sounds great name a problem he has a program to fix it everybody from this county who wants to go to college ought to be able to go i'm going to give you a system of preschool for all the kids who need it yesterday his theme was jobs today it was healthcare a promise to provide coverage for everyone businesses would either have to extend health insurance to their workers or pay into a government fund to cover the uninsured all without ballooning the budget deficit at a rally in columbus ohio he claimed his plan would help small businesses who are being killed by rising health care costs most new jobs are created in small businesses how can we do it when small business can go broke paying health insurance bills but small businesses have been lobbying hard against clinton's plan and the person left holding the bag is going to be the small business owner and they're not going to be able to afford it later on his bus clinton acknowledged something he does not say in his stump speech that his health plan would have to be phased in over several years the health care we're going to pay for by bringing health costs in line with inflation and it's we're going to have to implement it over a period of a couple of years we're not going to generate all the money overnight he said he could do it without raising taxes or increasing the deficit here i've personally interviewed hundreds of people in health care and i am convinced that there is a hundred billion dollars of money out there that can be reallocated it's now going to insurance companies to bureaucracy

02:02:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=7321s)

bureaucracy to regulation this is the closest he's come to telling people that they may have to give something up to make his plan work we've got to stop this idea if i take care of me you take care of you we don't care what happens it's going to bankrupt us all we've got to say we're in this together in his economic plan clinton does talk about the need to make sacrifices but he hasn't mentioned that in his stump speech since becoming the nominee tom thank you andrea now let's go to john cochran at the white house where the president has been reading the polls and now raising his voice john tom the president has said he would not take his gloves off until after the republican convention but today finding himself down in the polls he started swinging away meeting with the american legions boys nation bush accused bill clinton of swiping a bush campaign slogan for his acceptance speech last week now that we have changed the world it's time to

change america this is a comment that i've been saying and now we're trying to get it done we have changed the world now let's change america use that same leadership bush also disputed a teenager's assertion that clinton's economic program is gaining support and when you analyze the program they have this expression around here smoke and mirrors going to save it all by eliminating overhead eliminating waste and there's billions of dollars that is earmarked to do that and i just don't think that's practical i don't think the program is getting is gaining strength he had one that was quite different a few months ago and now and just in time for the convention out comes another one uh but both of them and result in in in taxing but bush's advisers say he must do more than attack he must show he can get results by getting at least some of his own economic proposals passed by congress democrats are working on a package that includes much of what bush does want like tax breaks for the real estate industry and lower capital gains taxes the hang-up is that bush vows to veto

02:04:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=7441s)

the hang-up is that bush vows to veto again any bill raising taxes on the wealthy now we put in a surtax on millionaires to pay for what we had proposed and he'd be looking at that again i would assume the democrats could put bush in a real fix forcing him either to increase taxes on the rich which could hurt bush in his own party or to veto yet another economic recovery program which would leave bush open to charges that his first concern is for the rich tom thank you john well as we reported here last week it seems more and more inevitable that jim baker will leave the secretary of state job to take over the campaign but for all of his skills he can't wave a magic wand and make 7.8 unemployment go away what does baker bring to this campaign he brings a lot of authority he can get this campaign focused it's badly disorganized now and he smoothes silk when he goes on the air in the evening to talk to you or in the morning to talk to katie and bryant he'll be very smooth he'll get the message of the day out very efficiently no love wash between vice president dan quayle and jim baker is quayle's position on this ticket absolutely secure well quayle's press secretary tells me that today the vice president had lunch with the president and after that quail went back to his office to start working on his acceptance speech at the republican convention thank you john cochran at the white house back to the economy now how tough is it to get the deficit under control while expanding the economy well nbc's lisa myers tonight on how ross perot looked at that challenge before he dropped out lisa tom when parole called it quits he was working up the boldest most politically explosive plan to balance the budget ever offered by a candidate perot's aides now admit he hadn't a clue how tough the budget problem was in the beginning he really believed eliminating the 400 billion dollar deficit would be simple let's assume you really just take it right off the top right off the top you only go for 20 there you're 400 billion you haven't even broken a sweat 14 weeks later perro's solution would

02:06:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=7560s)

14 weeks later perro's solution would have sent many americans into a cold sweat it included cuts in social security payments perhaps through smaller cost of living increases a 50 cent a gallon increase in the gasoline tax big increases in alcohol and tobacco taxes possible limits on mortgage interest deductions on homes above two hundred thousand dollars and cuts in most federal programs ranging from defense to farm subsidies to the space station in leaving the race pearl urged others to be candid about the pain and sacrifice required to quote senator saunders there is no santa claus now i would urge both candidates not to run on the santa claus theory because they're going to get a lot of soot on them going down the chimney perrault's plan included few goodies a capital gains tax cut for long-term investment an investment tax credit more spending on roads and bridges and even with perot's huge cuts it still would have taken five years to balance the budget budget experts say it's the kind of tough plan that's needed ross perot's plan as described is a plan to balance the budget and neither the bush budget nor the clinton proposal is that before he resigned ed rollins warned perot that his plan would touch off a political firestorm i think it would have taken the the entire campaign effort from now until november to make americans buy off on it and i don't think he was prepared to do that perrault deserves credit for trying to honestly confront the budget crisis but the bottom line is this when it came time to deliver the bad news to the american people parole blinked the bush campaign these days is feeling like it's been hit by a bus a bus with bill clinton at the wheel the president after all was slightly

ahead in the polls just days ago but now he is a distant second and fading nbc's john cochran is at the white house tonight andrea mitchell is on the road with the clinton campaign john what's the latest bush game plan tom the president spokesman marlon fitzwater grump today that bill clinton is waging a negative campaign

02:08:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=7681s)

is waging a negative campaign and then fitzwater allowed us how the white house will just have to get tougher fitzwater wasted no time going after no not clinton but al gore calling gore an environmental extremist who has not paid much attention to the economy fitzwater also accused gore of knocking america at the rio earth summit last month today bush left attacks to his subordinates while he pushed his war against drugs in arlington virginia bush's aides think he does well at informal sessions like this but they do pose dangers that's when a woman challenged dan quayle on family values excuse me mr president with dan quill's comment about the traditional family i have a problem with that a little bit because the traditional family is everybody is a family and we all take care of all the children together bush handled that smoothly by changing the subject but bush seemed rattled by rumors that he is ill and that dan quayle will drop off the ticket because his wife is ill it's a crazy time on rumors we get phone calls barbara's sick marilyn quail's sick i'm not feeling well i don't know what's going on out there because i don't believe in repeating them or printing you know kind of encouraging the printing of this thing the rumor that almost everyone believes is that jim baker will take over the bush campaign he would be a worthy adversary but it would also show where the priorities of this administration are not on pursuing a decent foreign policy for a post-cold war era but on winning an election will baker leave the state department here's his answer on april 1st mr secretary can you assure the american people and your constituency overseas that you're going to stay in this job and not resign at some point to take command of president bush's re-election campaign yes unequivocally yes of course baker could say that was on april's fool's day and that he shouldn't be held accountable for what he said but more likely he would say that a lot has happened since april and that his good pal george bush now faces a formidable challenge

02:10:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=7802s)

faces a formidable challenge tom thank you john nbc's andrea mitchell is in st louis tonight six days on the road now with the clinton bus capade through mostly republican territory in the last presidential elections andrea how's the democratic candidate doing well tom bill clinton and al gore have gone their first 1000 miles but it's only the first step in what promises to be a grueling campaign the crowd in st louis was big enough to fill bush stadium 45 000 people the kind of crowd politicians dream about getting in october not july as he has been all week al gore was the warm-up act do we want to keep a government that responds only to the wealthy and powerful and privileged few gore was originally scheduled to drop off two days ago but the team played so well he stayed on and they will do a lot more trips together often by bus to small towns like vandalia illinois where the crowd exceeded anyone's expectation many of these people are disaffected swing voters to reach them clinton is talking like a combination of jerry brown and ross perot we have gone from new jersey to pennsylvania to west virginia to ohio to kentucky to indiana to illinois and now to saint louis and a great crusade to give the american people their country back the geography is no accident in the past six days clinton and gore have visited eight states with 117 electoral votes more than 40 percent of the number needed to win but all of these states except west virginia have voted republican in the past three or more presidential elections the only negative has been annie abortion protesters at every stop clinton has softened his tone on abortion noticeably i respect the right to life people in the way they can debate it but i do have respect for those people and their concern for human life clinton appeared with dick gephardt today in the majority leader's hometown but only yesterday he suggested voters should replace incumbent congressman

02:12:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=7921s)

should replace incumbent congressman you're going to have a big shake up and the people that are being sent to congress are not being sent there to deliver pork back home they're being sent there to fix this country as much as clinton is enjoying these crowds he knows it will get a lot tougher especially with jim

baker taking over the bush campaign clinton will return to the midwest soon but his next major swing will be out west for the biggest electoral prize of all california time now for commentary from john chancellor looking at a kind of celebrated team in american politics tom jim baker and george bush the best team in politics today baker ran the bush campaign in 1980 when bush was chosen as ronald reagan's running mate baker ran the bush campaign in 1988 when bush was elected president baker may now run the 1992 bush campaign call them the sherlock holmes and dr watson of the republican party but which one is holmes and which one is watson the one who was elected president should be holmes and that's george bush but it looks as though mr bush can't get elected unless he is managed by one indispensable man jim baker and does that make jim baker the sherlock holmes baker has been managing the state department while the white house has been mismanaging the bush campaign letting the president get gassed in panama and booed at the all-star game clearly sherlock holmes wasn't in charge at the white house this is all complicated baker himself may want to run for president four years from now the best way to accomplish that would be for him to stay on as secretary of state the most visible member of the cabinet but he can't do that unless bush wins a second term so jim baker's first priority is the re-election of his old friend george their lives are entwined it may take a novelist not a journalist to do to describe that relationship then maybe the novelist could tell us which one is the sherlock holmes and which one the dr watson john well at least we know which one lives on baker street john chancellor good evening something

02:14:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=8041s)

john chancellor good evening something rarely seen in these days of carefully planned events happened to president bush today it was supposed to be a dignified appearance for him before he hit the campaign trail it occurred at a meeting of relatives of american servicemen missing in southeast asia our white house correspondent john cochran on the road with the president in columbia missouri john it was heated to say the least it was that jane you know the president's aides never thought he'd get any political mileage out of speaking to the families of the missing but they say he felt he had an obligation to talk to them anyway so tonight the president must feel that it's really true that no good deed goes unpunished neither bush nor his aides expected the buzz saw he ran into scores of hecklers who believe bush should be more aggressive and hunting for mias and should release all classified documents on them bush frustrated sought help from jeff donahue the brother of an air force pilot missing since 1968. but donahue was on the side of the hecklers that's a symptomatic of the issue president this is our 20th third meeting why can't you get our plane and negotiate did that means have everything we want we have everything excuse me that wasn't what bush wanted to hear and the heated argument followed with bush at one point yelling are you calling me a liar after several stops and starts bush eventually finished his speech would you please be quiet and let me finish would you please shut up and sit down to suggest that a commander-in-chief that led this country into its most successful recent effort would condone for one

02:16:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=8161s)

recent effort would condone for one single day the personal knowledge of a person held against his will whether it's here or anyplace else is simply totally unfair many in the audience were embarrassed by the hecklers and some apologized to bush i was disappointed with what they did i think it does bring publicity but a negative kind of publicity later campaigning in ohio bush denied he was upset by the heckling which will come as a surprise to those who had seen him finger-pointing earlier and when you see a little planned reception little violin you know a little volatile reaction bush said the heckling was organized and premeditated the author of a book on mia's feels many relatives refuse to accept reality the evidence is overwhelmingly clear that is that there are no live pows in indochina bush knows full well the emotional impact of americans in captivity iraq paraded pows on tv during last year's war bush's aides worry about the impact of more such pictures if he orders airstrikes again today he canceled a weekend trip to maine so he can meet tomorrow with military advisers on the latest iraqi crisis there have it have it in focus to those who suspect that george bush would resume the air war to boost his re-election chances his aides say one that's not the george bush they know and two putting americans in harm's way is not necessarily smart politics james now are bringing more of the same news for george bush for example a cnn time magazine poll out

today gives democratic candidate bill clinton a two to one lead over the president and what's more more than a fourth of those surveyed said vice president quayle's presence on the ticket made them less likely to vote republican

02:18:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=8281s)

made them less likely to vote republican in november according to today's washington post though quayle is now telling his personal staff that the president has assured him that he will not be dropped from the ticket well each election year for the past 20 years nbc news correspondent tom pettit has taken the political pulse of a small southern town which has a pretty good record for picking winners he went back there today no presidential candidate has ever come to demopolis alabama no campaign motorcades or bus trips demopolis is a town of about 7 000 people unemployment here is low and it's been insulated from the recession it is a conservative backwater in southwestern alabama won by bush in 1988 and before that by reagan and nixon this time almost nobody black or white expects bush to win mayor austin caldwell the sentiments would be with bush but i believe that clinton would win the election businessman ged russell no question about it mr clinton would be our next president united states but this part of the american electorate is not excited about the campaign we chatted with some of the regulars at the downtowner cafe and i think bush means well but i don't i just don't think he's capable i don't want four years of hillary if you want to know the truth statistically in my opinion mr clinton will be elected but he won't get my vote oh i think we'll be a hell of a lot better all if the democrats are elected demopolis may not be typical of the south but it is very surprising in one respect every one of these middle-aged white men agrees on one subject abortion cruz brasswell retired businessman frank rutledge retired druggist and dr paul ketchum doc is a flaming conservative the abortion issue should not be in the presidential campaign i think it's a woman's prerogative to do what she wants to do it's her body and it's a prerogative i don't see any politician making any law

02:20:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=8400s)

politician making any law that will either say she can or can't i think that the women in this country are going to play a big part in this presidential election one thing we know in modern times democracy voters have gone for the eventual winner one can reach two conclusions here one george bush is in serious trouble even among republicans and two the people of demopolis have no lofty expectations from the presidential election tom pettitt nbc news in demopolis alabama and finally this evening imagine for a moment that you are dan quayle what kind of a week has it been for you well first of all you had to listen to your fellow republicans brain for your political head that your boss the president should drop you from the ticket your staff may have spoiled this saturday by informing you that tomorrow the powerful midwest voice of the chicago tribune will tell you it's time to go so if you are dan quayle how can you possibly sleep well tonight because you know a thing or two about politics and george bush you know that for the president to ask you to step aside would be more a sign of his political weakness than yours you know that you have been everything george bush wanted in his vice president obedient non-threatening justice bush was to ronald reagan and during those long talks you've had with your boss this past week about your future you knew that he had no reason for getting rid of you except except political calculation and you know people are getting pretty tired of political calculation and yes finally you know that the issue the election is not about dan quayle it's about george bush and george bush knows that and that's why you can tell your staff that the matter is closed and why after a tough week you he dan quayle can sleep well tonight turning now to the election contest here at home vice president quayle was campaigning in

02:22:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=8520s)

vice president quayle was campaigning in the south today and he took the bush quail message to receptive audiences and as he did he tried to stop stop cold all the speculation and suggestions that he leave the ticket tom pettitt was with quail today vice president dan quayle came to the deep south to begin a counter-attack against his critics trying to end speculation about his future insisting that he will stay on the ticket he spoke to nearly 4 000 members of the briarwood presbyterian church in an affluent suburb of birmingham alabama

part of his natural conservative constituency many of my critics tell me that i should never raise the issue of values well as usual my critics are wrong the vice president is trying to end the dump quail rumors which have been plaguing him the past week even some alabama republicans have said mr bush would be better off without him and the conservative chicago tribune in an editorial today called for him to step aside this is a closed issue the only people that are bringing this up uh are happen to be our opponents the media and some hand wringers the president has never wavered on this issue privately or publicly and we're going to win this campaign do you think this issue will go away once your campaign starts moving this issue is a closed issue past tense mrs quayle doesn't really want to talk about it the only people are talking about members of the media seems to be the the the hot topic among members of media and nobody else then it was off to the races gentlemen start your engines mr quayle was grand marshal of the talladega alabama stock car race the die hard 500. dan quayle's real challenge is to do better in the opinion polls but nobody in the entire campaign has yet figured out a way to do that

02:24:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=8641s)

yet figured out a way to do that tom pettitt nbc news birmingham today what can the government afford to help the less fortunate nbc's andrea mitchell tonight in los angeles tells us where the candidates are standing on this andrea tom republicans have often used welfare to make the middle class angry at the poor and at democrats who support social programs george bush opened this year's welfare debate today but on welfare bill clinton is no ordinary democrat in wisconsin bush okayed a state plan to pay lower welfare benefits to newcomers to discourage people from moving there to take advantage of wisconsin's relatively high benefits i believe we can no longer afford the existing welfare system and our recipients can't afford to be dependent on government for their livelihood and our tax buyers can't afford to pay the welfare bill bush would permit welfare recipients to earn more money before losing benefits but he would also require them to get jobs or lose their benefits and he would deny benefits to some women who have more children if bush hopes to use the welfare issue against clinton he'll find that the democratic nominee is ready for him but i can see it coming right down the track that's their wedge issue family values welfare and when people in this election try to put on yesterday's broken record that sticks at the same old place in the song tax and spent tax and spent taxing spends taxes unlike traditional democrats and like bush clinton would require welfare recipients to get jobs or lose benefits after two years but he would provide public service jobs if they can't find other work would provide job training for the poor and increase tax breaks for the working poor i say to you we ought to end welfare as we know it it ought to be a second chance not a way of life but to do it you have to liberate people you have to educate them and train them

02:26:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=8760s)

educate them and train them and liberate their kids then you can require them to take jobs george bush has supported state initiatives on welfare but he has never proposed a national welfare reform plan in arkansas bill clinton started a program to train women for work to get them off welfare results have been positive but slow especially for those who have spent the longest time on the welfare roles what about the expense you spend more on education but you save more on welfare payments so it depends on how quickly you move them from welfare to work no matter how different bill clinton is from previous democratic nominees the republicans are still expected to hammer him on the welfare issue tom when dan quayle writes his memoirs let's hope he tells of his escape from a firing squad in 1992 when some important republicans wanted him dumped as the vice presidential candidate serious consideration of dropping quail began about two weeks ago polls show that bush was falling into the cellar and that quail's unpopularity was a weight around the president's neck last wednesday the wall street journal said quail may go on thursday the new york times said two separate groups of republican senators were talking about replacing quail the wall street journal said this was going on at the highest levels the conservative counterattack came on friday william f buckley said he'd been told quail had offered to withdraw buckley's newspaper column warned that if quail had to be replaced conservatives would be watching with intense ideological curiosity paul gigo's column in the wall street journal said quail wasn't the problem bush was the problem gigo wrote that the dump dan rumors were a sideshow to the dump george movement the right was rallying behind quail and next day it was all over

saturday's paper said the matter was now closed after 10 days of talks between bush and quail this story incidentally came not from the president but from quayle's office that's something to remember this was a crisis for quail he and his staff handled it with great skill quail ends up the loyalist

02:28:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=8880s)

skill quail ends up the loyalist bush ends up the problem quail should really tell this whole story someday tom sitting president wants is a stubborn recession right in the middle of his re-election campaign but that's just what george bush is stuck with according to the latest government numbers and analysis the gross domestic product that's economic growth was up only 1.4 percent april through june that's about half what it was in the first quarter there were however some bright spots sales of new homes jumped almost eight percent in june after dropping four months in a row and the first half of this year was much better than the first half of 1991 another bright spot the number of people applying for jobless benefits last week was the lowest in almost two years the stock market this week is up almost 110 points nbc's john cochran is on the campaign trail with the president in orange county california tonight john what's the latest spin out of the white house tom the president did not say that happy days are here again but faced with an uphill race he did choose to say that the future looks partly sunny not partly cloudy bush began today's travels in texas advertising his support for the 8 billion super collider atom smasher which faces a possible death sentence from congress these workers appreciate bush's help but he realized he also had to try some damage control after today's low growth figures since world war ii the first year of every recovery has shown the same pattern with one quarter up in the next quarter down a little bit most of the economists blue blue chip economists predict that the economy is going to get stronger the rest of the year bill clinton chose to find nothing good in today's disappointing growth figures i think the economic numbers are going to reinforce the determination of the american people to make a change bush's aides say he believes both he and the economy are hurt by a pessimism that feeds on itself the number of people who feel the country is on the wrong track has risen from 22 percent to 71 percent more than tripled in the past 18 months

02:30:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=9000s)

tripled in the past 18 months according to the nbc news wall street journal poll bush blames the gloom on congress for failing to pass his economic package and today he seemed to include himself among those threatened by unemployment we the people need jobs and we need to stimulate this economy and get those jobs today a new call for dan quayle to give up his job voluntarily by refusing to run this call from prominent florida republican tommy thomas who shelled out 45 grand for a full-page ad in the washington post quail was not amused i saw the ad but look this is someone that supported the pat buchanan in the primary he's entitled to his opinion but uh nothing's changed late today trying to reverse the polls bush told workers that bill clinton would make deeper cuts in military spending further damaging california's defense industries bush's campaign aides think they know how to undermine voter confidence in bill clinton's ability to deal with the economy what baffles the bush aids is how to build up voter confidence in a president who seems to have no new ideas tom thank you john more good news bad news on the president's watch when communism died so did a lot of those big american defense contracts and when the president campaigned in the politically important state of texas today his timing was at best unfortunate nbc's jim cummins on wednesday the day before bush came to texas general dynamics announced it was laying off 5 800 workers in fort worth because of cutbacks and defense spending clearly an embarrassment to the president when he first took office in 1988 27 000 people worked here by the end of 1994 about half that number thirteen thousand seven hundred will be gone laid off many of the workers blame the president bobby lumpkins and jerry sanders are among those who've already been laid off if george bush especially in election year as far as i'm concerned isn't going to go out and help people get jobs how does he expect or to keep jobs how does he expect to

02:32:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=9120s)

or to keep jobs how does he expect to get reelected general dynamics has been building f-16 fighter jets in fort worth since 1976. when peace broke out fighter jet orders fell off so some workers agree the layoffs are not entirely the president's fault downsizing the defense business what can you say that's the price we've paid for peace but the president does have a problem with the decision he made to block the sale of 180 f-16s to taiwan democrats have seized the issue accusing bush of making a deal with taiwan's enemy communist china that cost thousands of general dynamics workers their jobs bobby lumpkins agrees i think that they ought to try to try to sell the planes to taiwan you know everything everything else is being sold overseas what's the difference you know at least we'd have a job the timing of the new layoffs catches the president when he is politically weak and during a telephone interview aboard air force one today bush said he is now reconsidering the sale of f-16s to taiwan i have to make this determination and we are now taking a new look at this to see if these planes this sale of planes can go forward selling those f-16s to taiwan would probably save some jobs here in texas and votes for the president at the same time jim cummins nbc news dallas after a western tour in search of some good news for his re-election campaign there's not much out there so now he's preparing to deal with congressional democrats on a program designed to pump some money into the american economy nbc john cochran tonight in california where he's been covering the president john tom the president is trying to make that long climb back in the california polls and today he was trying to win back the so-called reagan democrats the president was pushing welfare reform an issue popular with reagan democrats or any taxpayer who thinks welfare roles are bloated with the indolent as well as the indigent bush thinks state government should lead the way in welfare reform i put my trust in the states more than

02:34:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=9240s)

i put my trust in the states more than washington that's the philosophical underpinning of our approach to welfare bush singled out this state-run job placement center for welfare recipients but the program gets federal funding under a welfare law passed in the final days of the reagan administration today democrats gleefully noted that on the day reagan signed that bill governor bill clinton was invited to the rose garden because he had worked with congress to get it passed as lead governors on welfare reform for the national governors association governors castle and clinton consistently presented the interests of the states in getting welfare reform enacted that was not what the bush campaign wanted to be reminded of on a day when he was trying to make welfare his issue it may prove to be a campaign issue but a side issue compared to the economy and the lack of jobs for people who don't want to be on welfare congress may soon pass a package to help the economy especially in rundown areas such as riot scarred areas of los angeles and bush may compromise even though that package will not include all the tax breaks for all the cities bush wants white house aides were furious when housing secretary jack kemp openly urged bush to reject the bill now in the senate kemp was told to get on the bush team and today he did there are many good elements in the bill but the president wants to make it even better we think we can if they will compromise as well it's a crucial decision for bush does he compromise to get some action or does he campaign against congress blaming the democrats for gridlock [Applause] conservatives want bush to play the blame game but many of bush's aides think voters are fed up with that particular game tom john won't that change the whole character of the president's campaign if he decides to go along with congress congress and find a compromise here it certainly would as i say these conservatives just want him to battle against congress and say elect republicans to congress you won't have this gridlock but since most voters

02:36:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=9360s)

this gridlock but since most voters realize it's going to be primarily a democratic congress the other option for george bush to show that he can work with the democratic congress that he can get some things done but the deal buster on this tom is if the democrats try to put on some kind of uh added taxes for millionaires george bush even for millionaires can't twice in his administration go along with more taxes not after that no new taxes pledge in 88 tom thank you john cochran in california tonight well it's no accident the president was in california a state with one-fifth of the electoral votes needed for election but california is also symbolic of the big-time financial problems of the big states in this country nbc's george lewis tonight is at a north

hollywood unemployment office with the latest on that george tom one reason george bush is in trouble is that california the state with the most electoral votes 54 is also leading the big states in unemployment nine and a half percent according to the latest figures because big california industries such as aerospace have been laying off thousands and thousands of workers and because laid off workers and closed businesses don't contribute to the tax rolls the state is in the red republican governor pete wilson and the democrats who run the state legislature can't agree on how to handle the deficit no one wants to raise taxes and no one wants to cut programs question if you were betting man when would we have a budget here i'd say stick with the lottery you got a better shot the golden state has been paying its bills with ious for a month now and major banks here have said that starting next week they'll stop honoring them state employees are wondering how they'll pay their bills the rest for us are sitting there every day at our jobs doing our job and we all have our bills to pay and they're not paying theirs if we didn't show it and do our jobs we'd hear about it they cannot show up and nobody hears about it and nobody cares some californians wondered why governor wilson was with president bush today instead of in sacramento trying to balance the budget with bush way behind in local polls wilson's ride on the presidential

02:38:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbficwyxIM8&t=9481s)

wilson's ride on the presidential coattails is bound to be bumpy in other big states the ones with lots of electoral votes crucial to the presidential election there are similar fiscal problems and high unemployment in new york governor cuomo and the legislature balanced the budget only after raising some taxes and fees and eliminating thousands of state jobs in florida no new taxes but a big cut in the education budget with the state schools bursting at the seams and in illinois welfare protests at the state capitol 60 000 people have been dropped from the welfare role 35 states have been forced to reduce their 1992 budgets and in an election year the fiscal woes of the states have made a lot of voters angry at incumbent politicians including the president

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